



INFERNO

PROLOGUE

MARVEL



X-MEN

INFERNO PROLOGUE



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PREVIOUSLY...

Many months ago, Carol Danvers, aka Ms. Marvel, helped the X-Men disseminate a computer virus that erased all worldwide records of the mutant team. Soon after, Mystique's foster daughter Rogue attacked Carol, accidentally absorbing her psyche and powers permanently. Struggling to control her powers, Rogue joined the X-Men — but when she was falsely accused of killing a S.H.I.E.L.D. agent, a Federal task force attacked her with a power neutralizer created by mutant shaman Forge. Storm intervened, but was struck by the weapon and lost her powers. Around this time, believing his first love Jean Grey to be dead, Cyclops married Madelyne Pryor, a woman who greatly resembled Jean. The two had a son, and Cyclops retired from the X-Men.

The New Mutants, the X-Men's student team, went through several changes. The night the alien Warlock arrived, Magik had an unrevealed interdimensional adventure. Cannonball began dating teleporting rock star Lila Cheney. While on Asgard, Mirage gained Valkyrie death-sensing powers and adopted the winged horse Brightwind. Professor X departed, leaving the New Mutants in the care of the recently reformed Magneto. Magik, who had conquered the demonic realm of limbo, transformed into her Darkchilde aspect more and more often. When limbo's demons, including the power-hungry S'ym, were infected with Warlock's techno-organic virus, Magik began leaving her mystical Soulsword in limbo to staunch the virus' spread and maintain her rule.

Meanwhile, Jean Grey had been discovered alive; the cosmic Phoenix Force had placed her in suspended animation and "died" in her place. Overjoyed, Cyclops reunited with Jean, and the five original X-Men formed X-Factor — but when Cyclops called home, he found the phone line disconnected. X-Factor took in several young mutants over the next few months: Rusty, Skids, Boom-Boom, Rictor, Caliban, Leech and Artie Maddicks. When the X-Men and X-Factor battled the vicious Marauders, several of the heroes were badly hurt. Shadowcat, Nightcrawler and Colossus were taken to Muir Island to recuperate, and Angel's crushed wings had to be amputated.

The X-Men tentatively allied with the Hellfire Club, and Magneto became the Club's White King, joining their Inner Circle alongside Emma Frost, Selene and Sebastian Shaw. Frost ran the Massachusetts Academy; her students the Hellions were the New Mutants' rivals. Uncomfortable at Xavier's school, Magma transferred to Frost's Academy. Meanwhile, the massive Terminus destroyed Antarctica's Savage Land, the government's Mutant Registration Act threatened mutants' civil liberties, and Havok and his girlfriend Polaris discovered an alien Brood Starshark

crashed in New Mexico.

Cyclops returned to Madelyne, but found his house empty. When police showed him a redhead's corpse, Cyclops believed his wife and son had been killed. In reality, Mr. Sinister and his Marauders had targeted Madelyne; they stole her baby and grievously injured her, leaving her for dead. When Madelyne awoke months later in a San Francisco hospital, the Marauders returned to finish the job, but the X-Men rescued her. Meanwhile, still believing Madelyne dead, Cyclops slowly rekindled his romance with Jean while she investigated her sister Sara's disappearance.

During a battle with Apocalypse's Horsemen, Pestilence infected the Beast, causing him to grow less intelligent every time he used his strength. Angel's "friend" Cameron Hodge was revealed as the head of anti-mutant group The Right. Apocalypse kidnapped Angel, transforming him into a blue-skinned, metal-winged killer — his fourth horseman, Death. Apocalypse attacked X-Factor; during the battle his enormous ship destroyed X-Factor's headquarters and large parts of Manhattan, and Caliban defected to Apocalypse's side. But X-Factor freed Angel from his brainwashing and publicly defeated Apocalypse, winning them great media acclaim — though the embittered Angel did not rejoin the team.

The New Mutants traveled to the island of the Animagator, a twisted geneticist allied with The Right. During a battle against Hodge and Right troops, Cypher was shot dead. Furious, Magik teleported the villains into limbo; Hodge was presumed killed when his plane crashed. Meanwhile, Mystique's Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, now the government-sanctioned Freedom Force, battled the X-Men in Dallas. Colossus, who ever since his injuries had difficulty changing back to human form, had Magik teleport him to rejoin the X-Men. Storm sought out Forge, who finally managed to restore her powers — but when the demonic, world-ending Adversary manifested in Dallas, Forge opened a mystic portal, but was unable to force the Adversary through and seal it.

As a camera crew broadcast the battle on live TV, Madelyne and the X-Men offered their souls to fuel Forge's spell. Reluctantly, Forge transformed them into energy, killing them — and used their souls to banish the Adversary. Millions worldwide witnessed the X-Men die to save the planet. Hours later, the goddess Roma resurrected the X-Men as a reward for their noble sacrifice — however, the X-Men decided to let the world continue thinking them dead. For although their friends and families were heartbroken, this falsehood would give them a tactical advantage over their many foes...

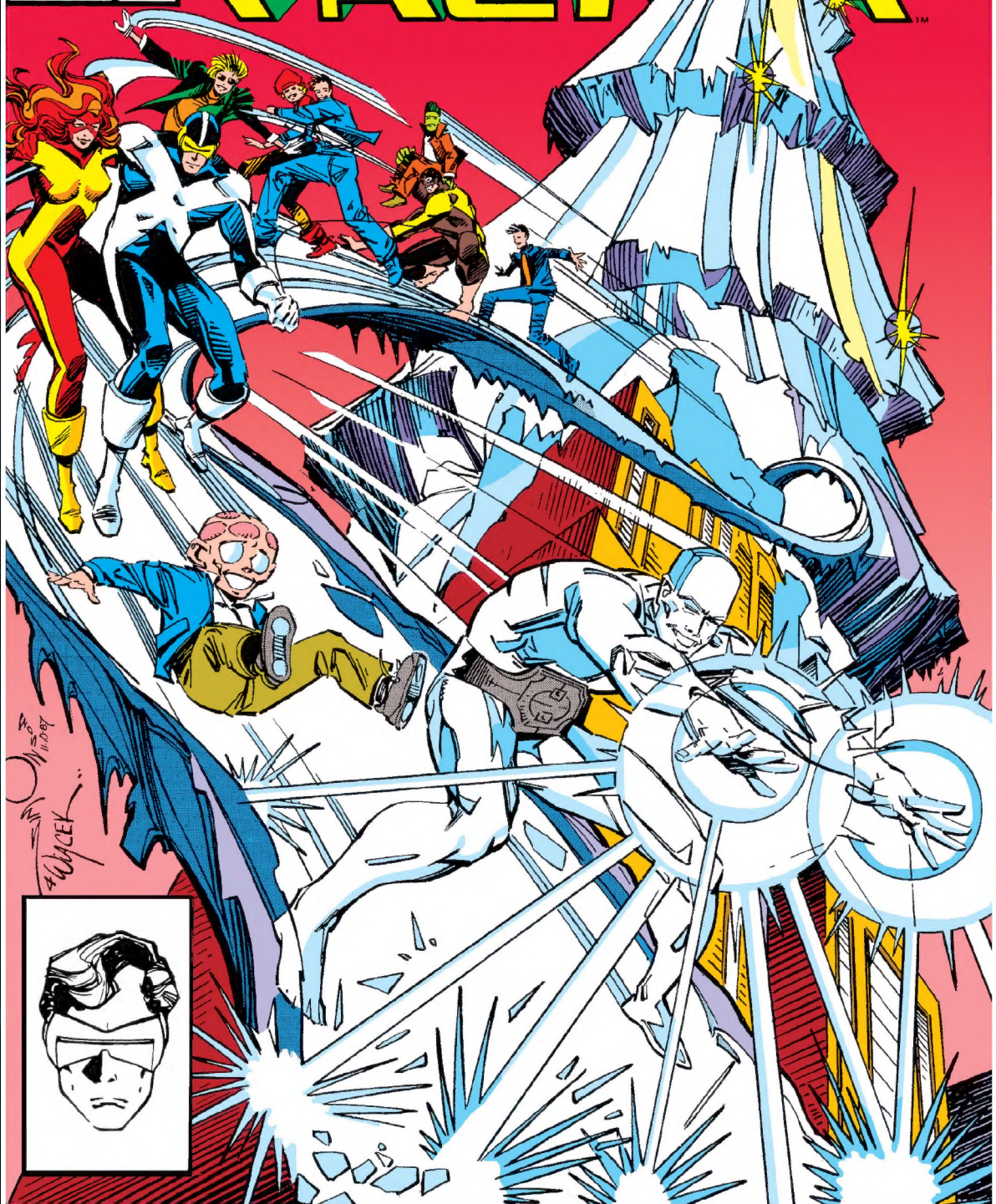
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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

X-FACTOR



GIFTS!



MAN, RICTOR, JEAN'S SURE LIFTING US HIGH ENOUGH!

NO KIDDING! THOSE PEOPLE DOWN BELOW 'RE LUCKY I DON'T GET AIR SICK!

LOOK, RUSTY! THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING...! THE ANTENNA'S BEEN KNOCKED OFF!

I KNOW! APOCALYPSE'S SHIP DID AN AWFUL LOT OF DAMAGE!

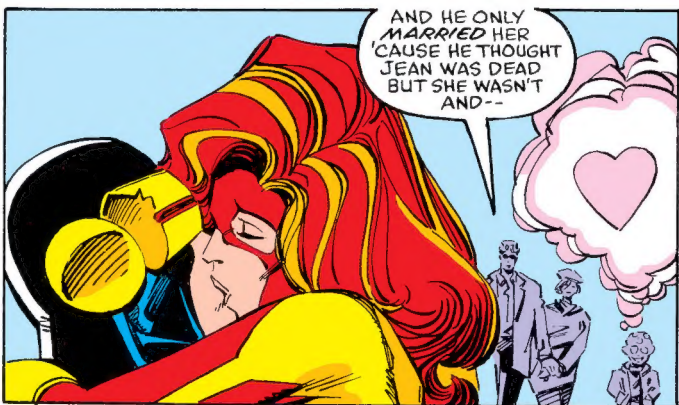
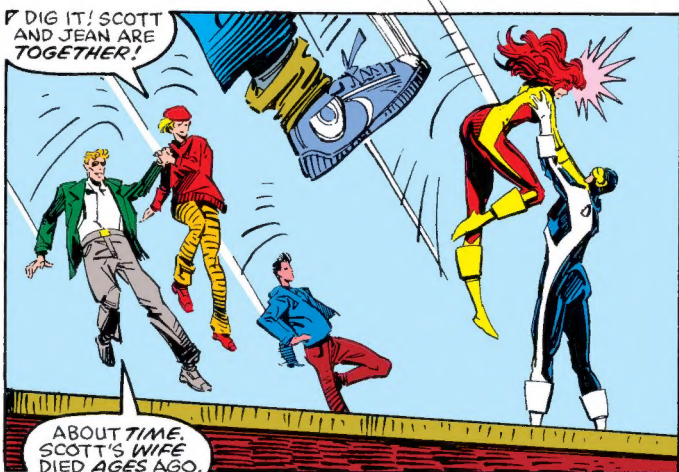
JEAN...WHAT DID YOU MEAN...X-FACTOR'S GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER WALTER SIMONSON PENCILER BOB WIACEK INKER JOE ROSEN LETTERER PETRA SCOTese COLORIST BOB HARRAS EDITOR TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

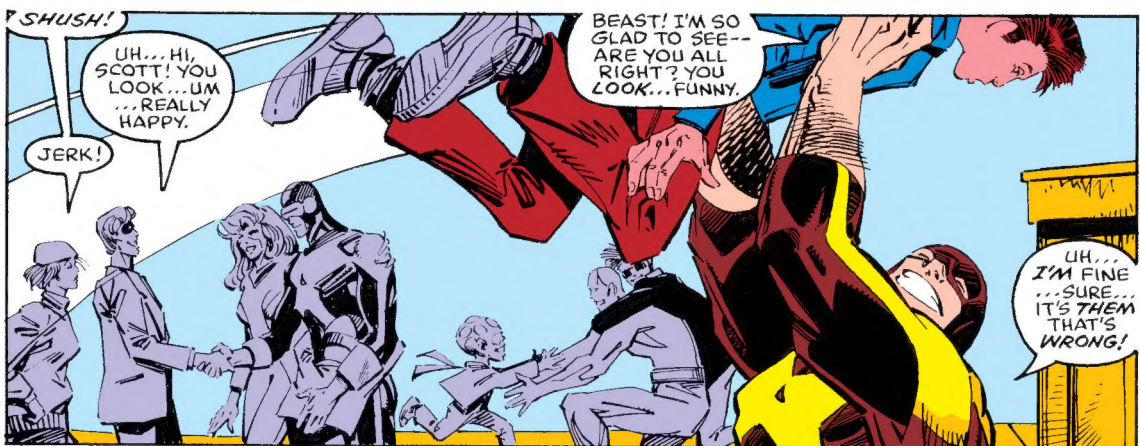
NOT SOMETHING PERMANENT.
I'M AFRAID. BUT IT'S SURE IN
KEEPING WITH THE SEASON!
YOU'LL SEE--!



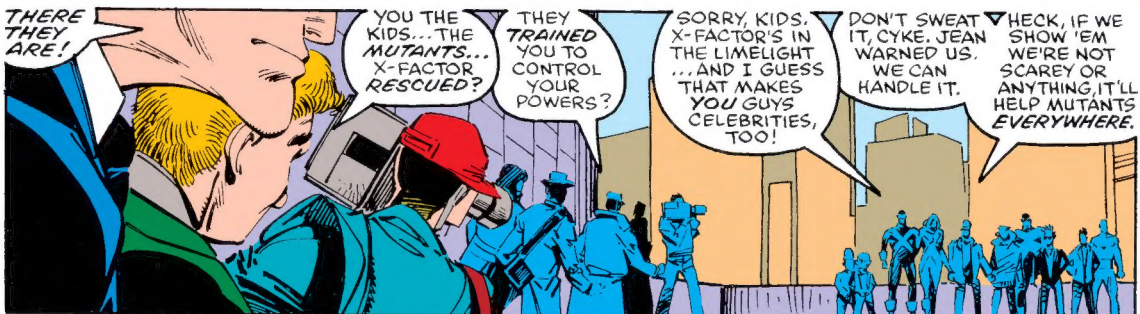
DIG IT! SCOTT
AND JEAN ARE
TOGETHER!



SHUSH!



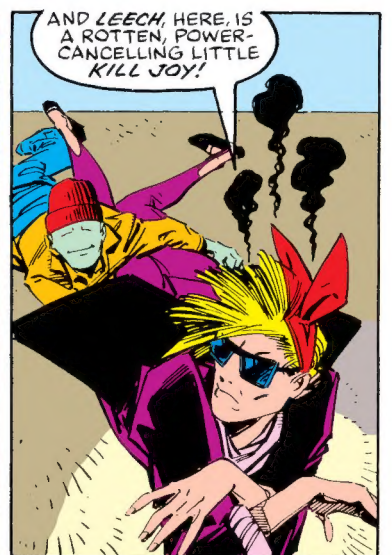
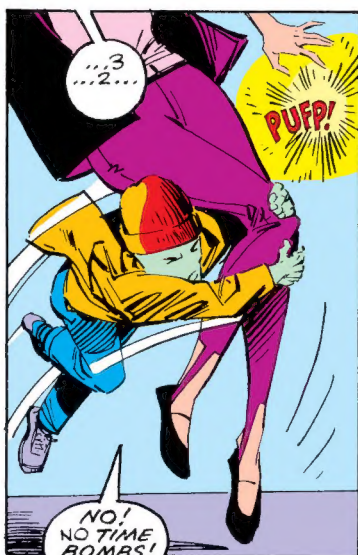
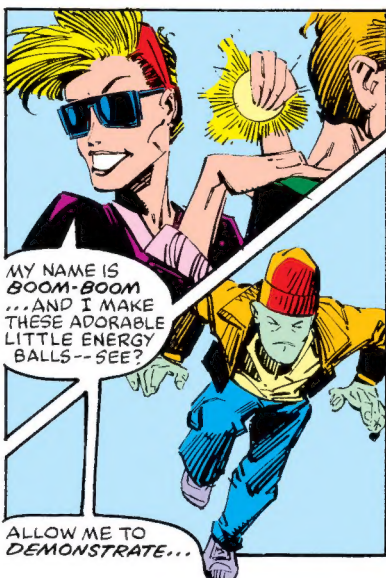
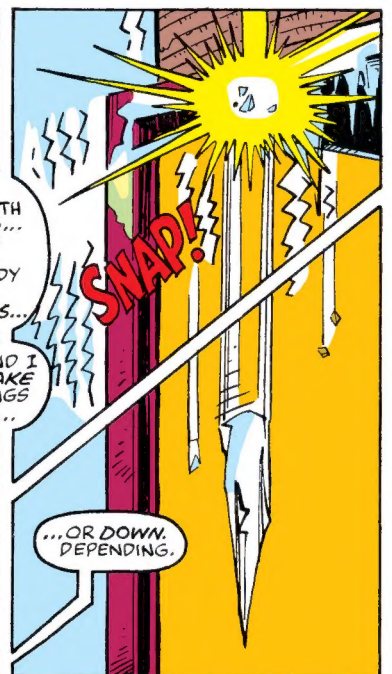
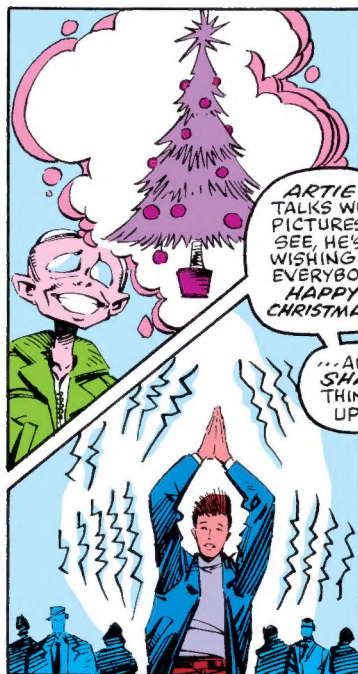
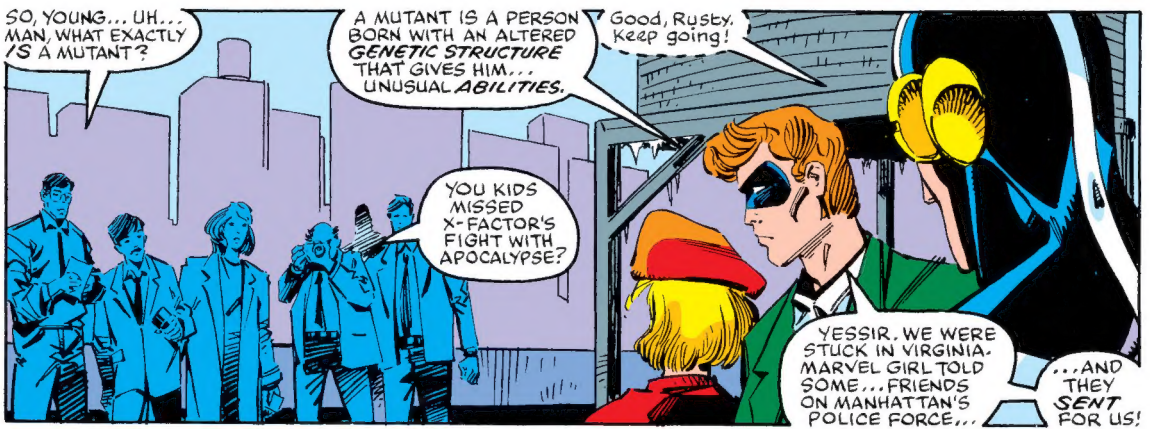
THERE
THEY
ARE!

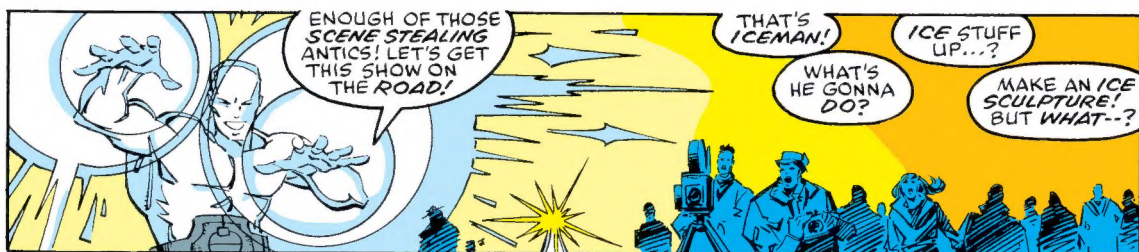


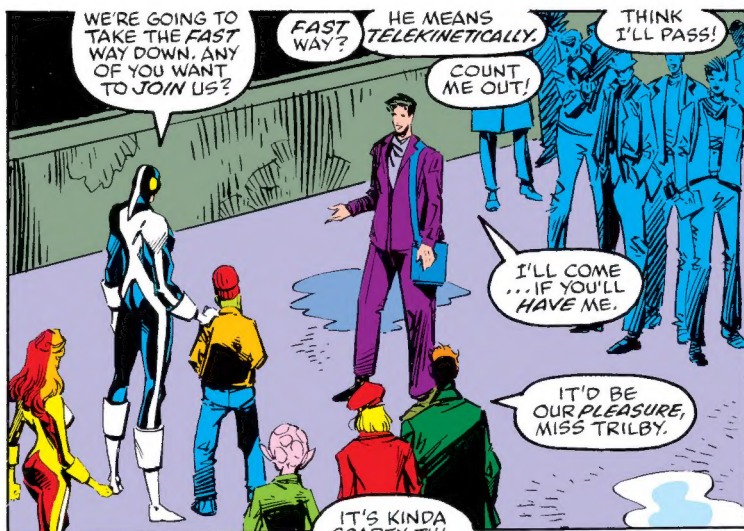
SORRY, KIDS.
X-FACTOR'S IN
THE LIMELIGHT
...AND I GUESS
THAT MAKES
YOU GUYS
CELEBRITIES,
TOO!

DON'T SWEAT
IT, CYKE. JEAN
WARNED US.
WE CAN
HANDLE IT.

HECK, IF WE
SHOW 'EM
WE'RE NOT
SCAREY OR
ANYTHING, IT'LL
HELP MUTANTS
EVERYWHERE.







FIFTH AVENUE HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A MALL FOR THE EVENING.

I THOUGHT WE'D STROLL ALONG... GIVE THE KIDS A CHANCE TO SEE THE CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS.

AND THE PUBLIC A CHANCE TO GAWK AT US A WHILE LONGER...?

IT'S WONDERFUL, ISN'T IT? I DON'T THINK LEECH HAS EVER HAD CHRISTMAS BEFORE.

NEVER?

APOCALYPSE'S SHIP SMASHED OUR COMPLEX... AND OUR ACCUMULATION OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

OH... WOW!

IT'S TOO BAD BUT... THERE'S A LOT MORE TO CHRISTMAS THAN PRESENTS.

CHRISTMAS! PRESENTS! AND AN ICE-TREE TO TOP IT OFF! THEY'RE REVELING IN IT...

...AND IN THE HUMANS' ADULATION!

WHILE THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH HUMAN AND MUTANT MONSTERS... WHO WANT NOTHING MORE THAN THEIR DESTRUCTION!

ENOUGH! NO MORE!

SKRASH!

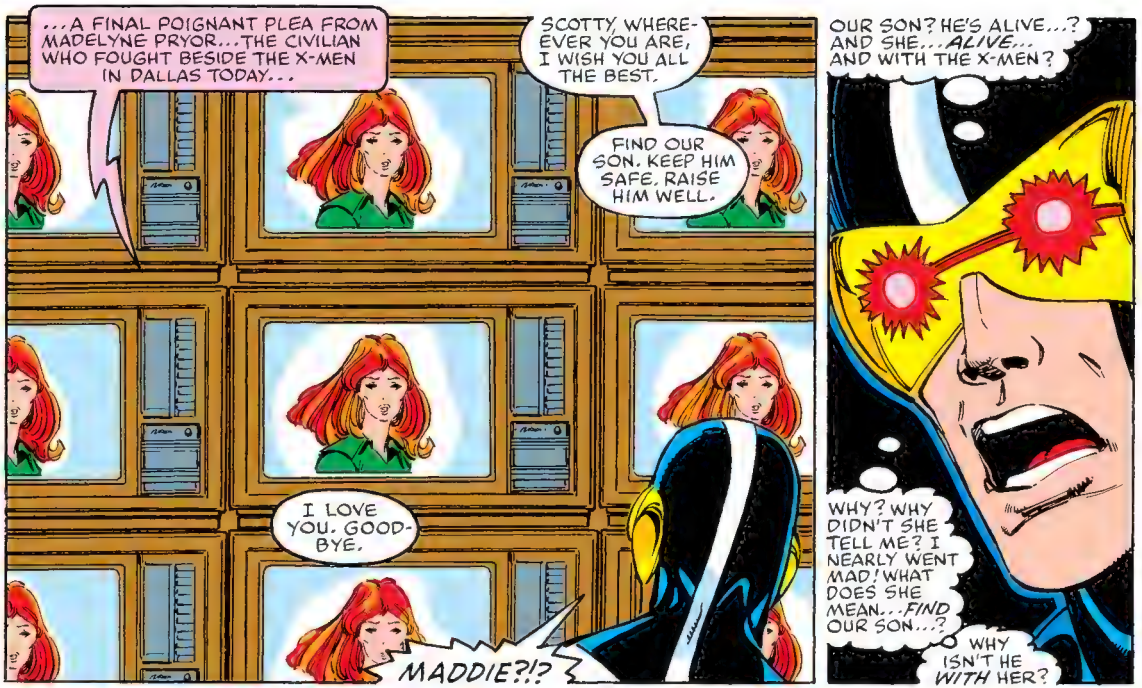
I CAN WATCH IT NO LONGER...!

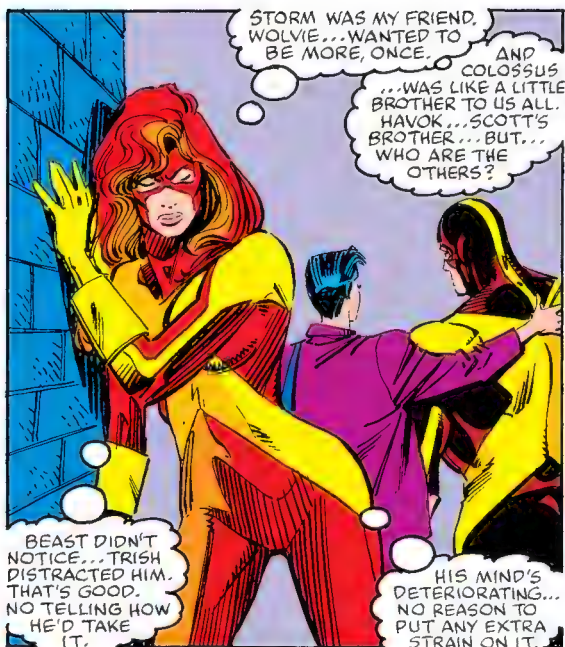
HEY, CYCLOPS! ON THAT TV! THE X-MEN! DIDN'T YOU USED TO KNOW THEM ONCE?

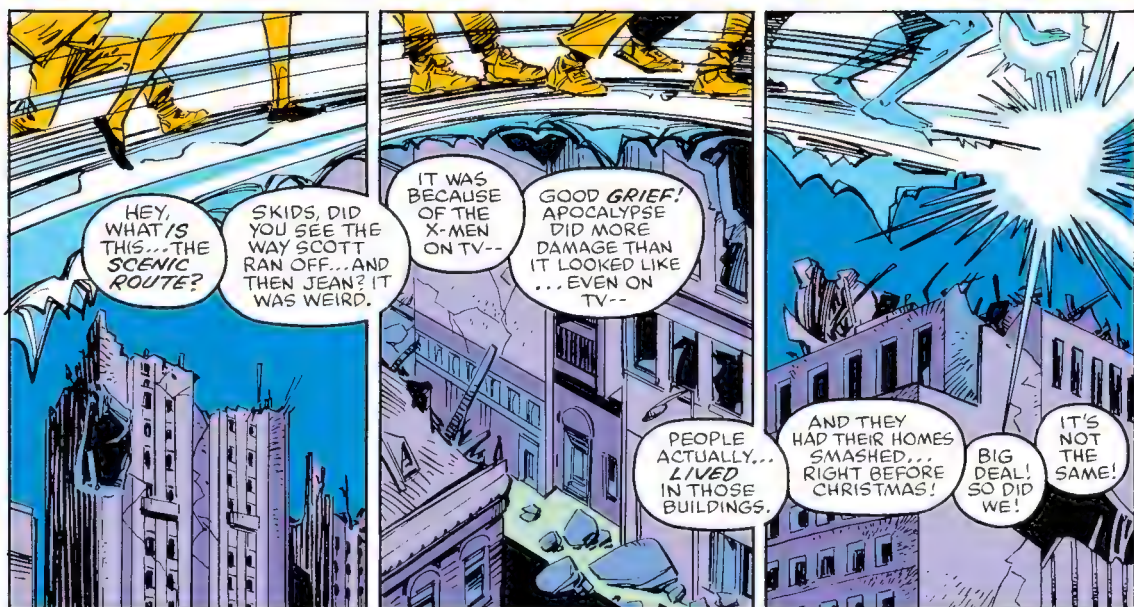
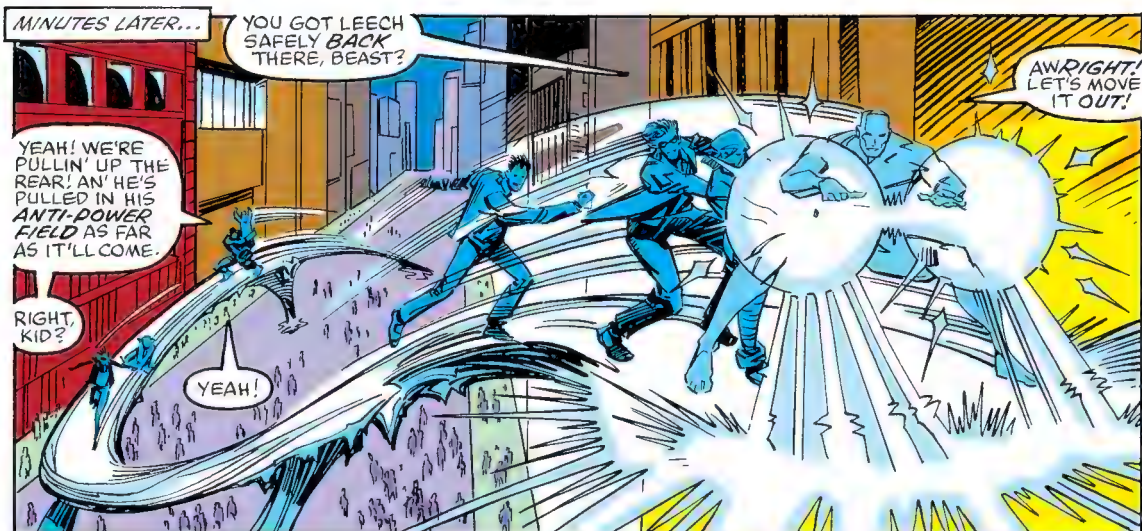
IT SAYS THEY WERE IN SOME BIG FIGHT TODAY!

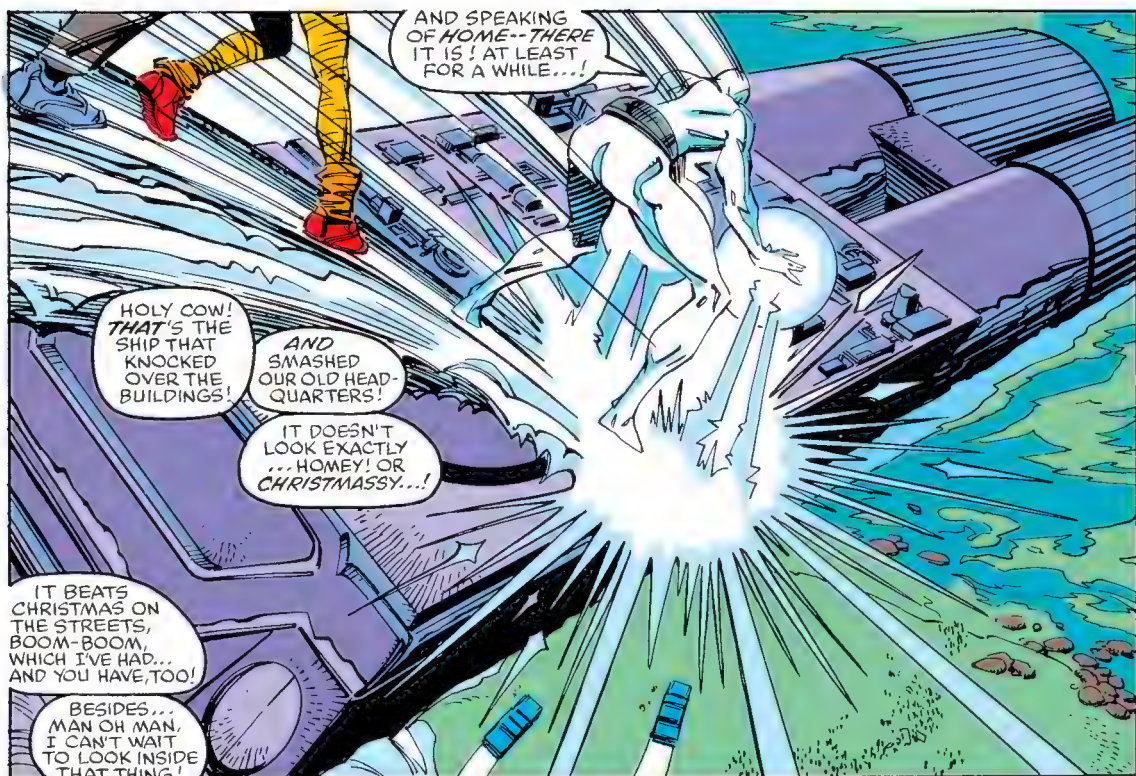
THE X-MEN-?

SKREEEEEEEEEEEE!









HOLY COW!
THAT'S THE
SHIP THAT
KNOCKED
OVER THE
BUILDINGS!

AND
SMASHED
OUR OLD HEAD-
QUARTERS!

IT DOESN'T
LOOK EXACTLY
...HOMEY! OR
CHRISTMASSY...!

IT BEATS
CHRISTMAS ON
THE STREETS,
BOOM-BOOM,
WHICH I'VE HAD...
AND YOU HAVE, TOO!

BESIDES...
MAN OH MAN,
I CAN'T WAIT
TO LOOK INSIDE
THAT THING!



SERGEANT
MILLER!
LIEUTENANT
CRAIG!

HI,
ICEMAN!
KIDS!



AND WHAT'S A
TREE WITHOUT
ORNAMENTS, EH?

THE WIFE MADE ME
A BOX FULL. BUYS 'EM
EVERY YEAR ON SALE.
GOT WAY TOO MANY
FOR OUR TREE.

BE DOIN' US
A FAVOR IF YOU'D
TAKE 'EM OFF
OUR HANDS.

OH...
CRUSH!
A TREE!
A REAL
TREE!

WEIRD, ISN'T
IT! THAT SHIP
LOOKS LESS...
DAMAGED THAN
IT DID EARLIER
TODAY.

YEAH,
IT DOES!
MUST
BE THE
LIGHT.



HEY, COP! THERE
WERE PEOPLE
HURT BY MUTIES.
HUMAN KIDS ARE
IN THE HOSPITAL.

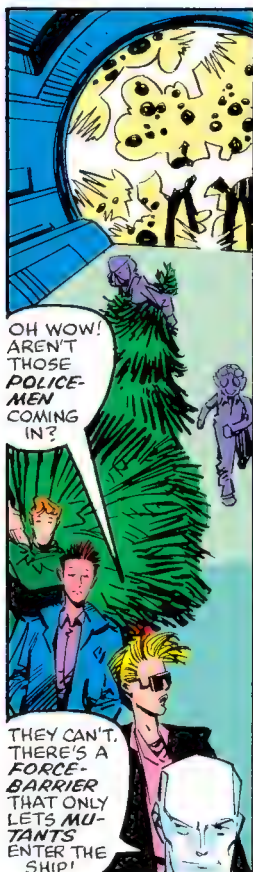
YOU COPS'D
BE BETTER
OFF WORRYIN'
'BOUT YOUR
OWN KIND.



I'D HOPED THEIR
KIND WOULD JUST
DRY UP AND BLOW
AWAY... WITH
HOW X-FACTOR
SAVED THE CITY
AN' ALL.

REAL
CHRISTMAS
SPIRIT, HUH?

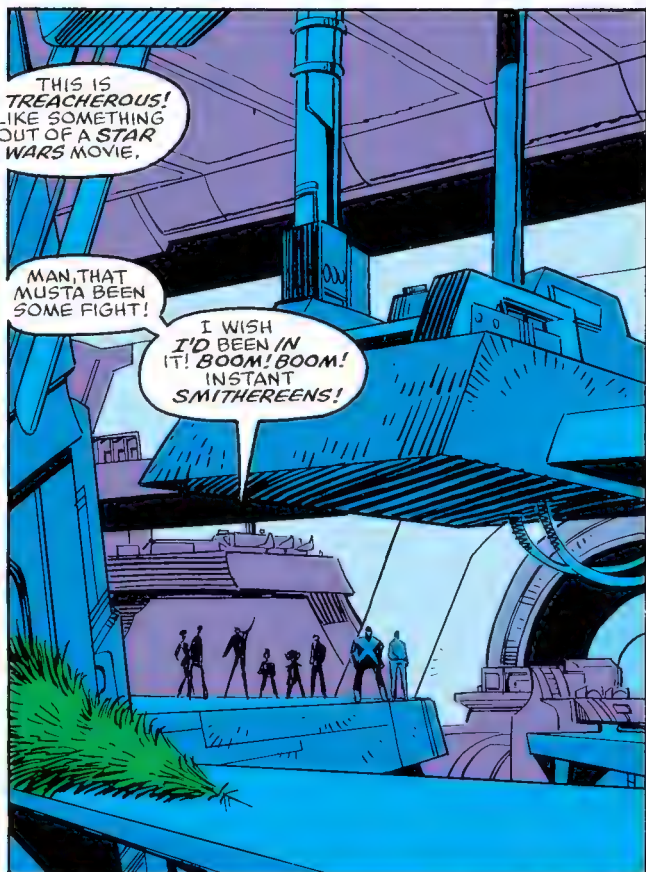
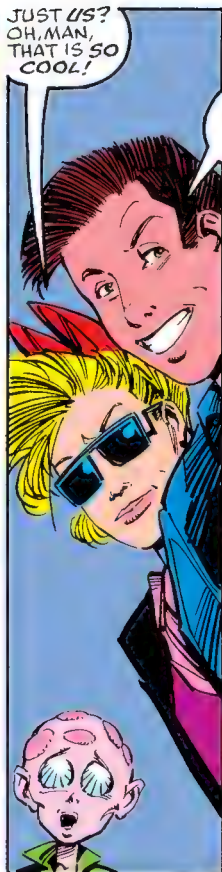
I GUESS YOU
CAN'T EXPECT
EVERYBODY TO
CHANGE OVERNIGHT
... BUT IT SURE
WOULD BE GREAT
IF THEY COULD.



OH WOW!
AREN'T THOSE
POLICE-
MEN
COMING
IN?

THEY CAN'T.
THERE'S A
FORCE-
BARRIER
THAT ONLY
LETS MU-
TANTS
ENTER THE
SHIP!

JUST US?
OH, MAN,
THAT IS SO
COOL!



THIS IS
TREACHEROUS!
LIKE SOMETHING
OUT OF A STAR
WARS MOVIE.

MAN, THAT
MUSTA BEEN
SOME FIGHT!

I WISH
I'D BEEN IN
IT! BOOM! BOOM!
INSTANT
SMITHEREENS!



BUTTONS!

WHAT DO THEY
CONTROL?
COMPUTERS?

TV?

WEIRD SYMBOLS
ON THE KEYS...
WHAT LANGUAGE
ARE THEY?

PHYSICS...
I THINK.

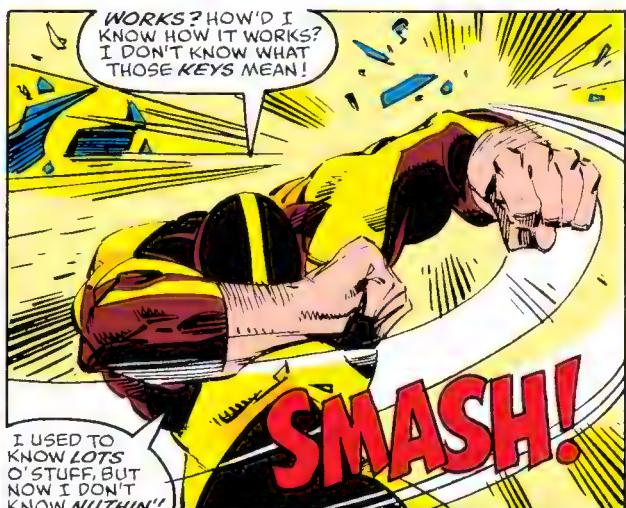
MAYBE YOU
KIDS OUGHTA
QUIT PUSHING
THOSE THINGS.
WHO KNOWS WHAT
YOU MIGHT--



SNOOPY'S
THE INN-
KEEPER--?

IT IS TV!
OR AT LEAST
IT PICKS UP
TV!

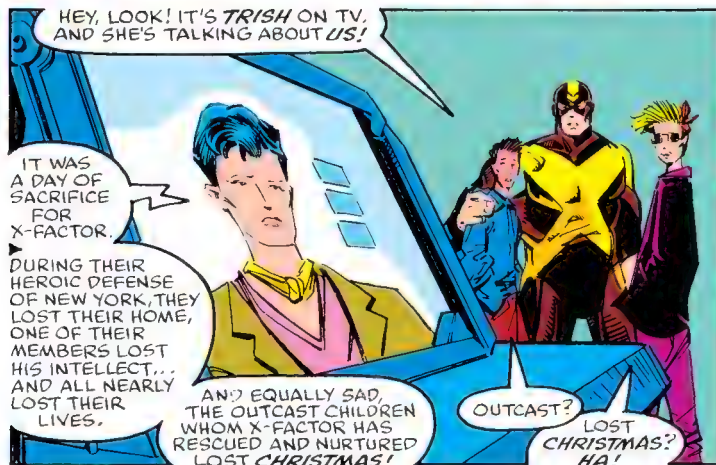
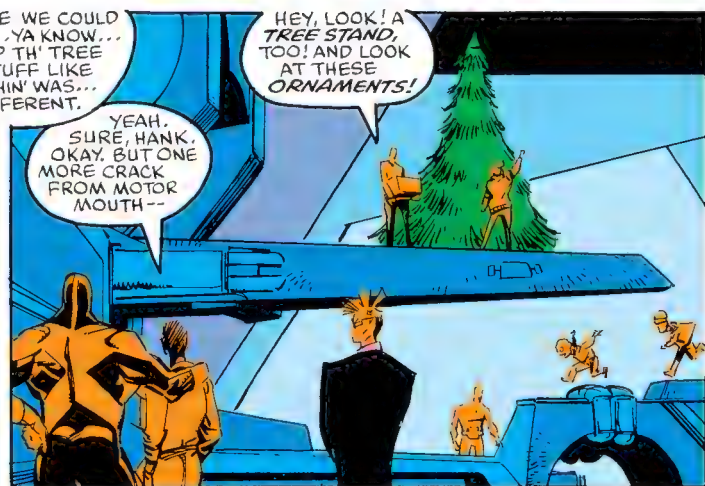
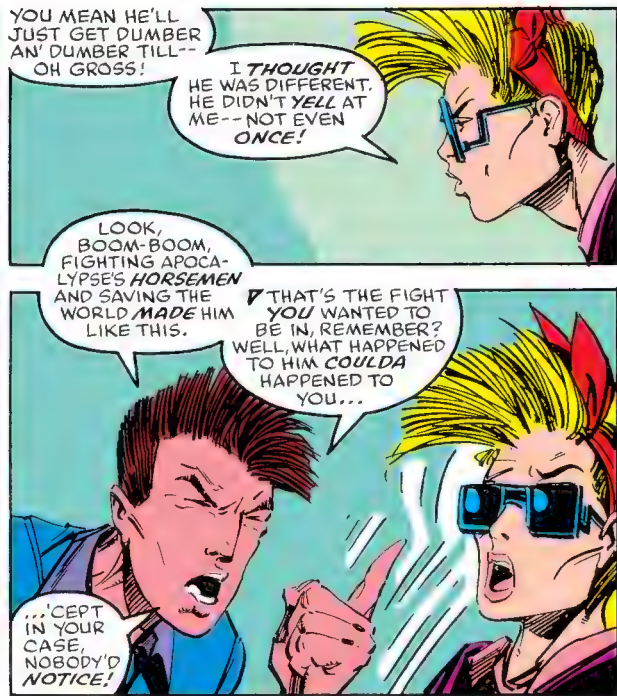
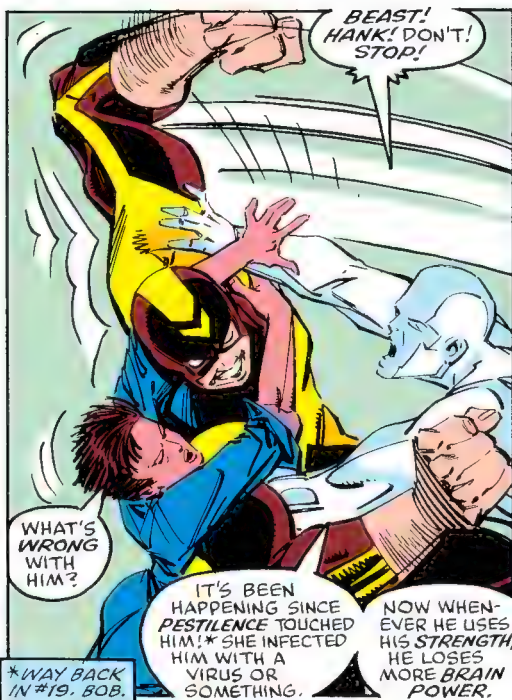
WHAT DO YOU
THINK, HANK? HOW
DOES IT WORK?
ELECTROMAG-
NETICS OR--



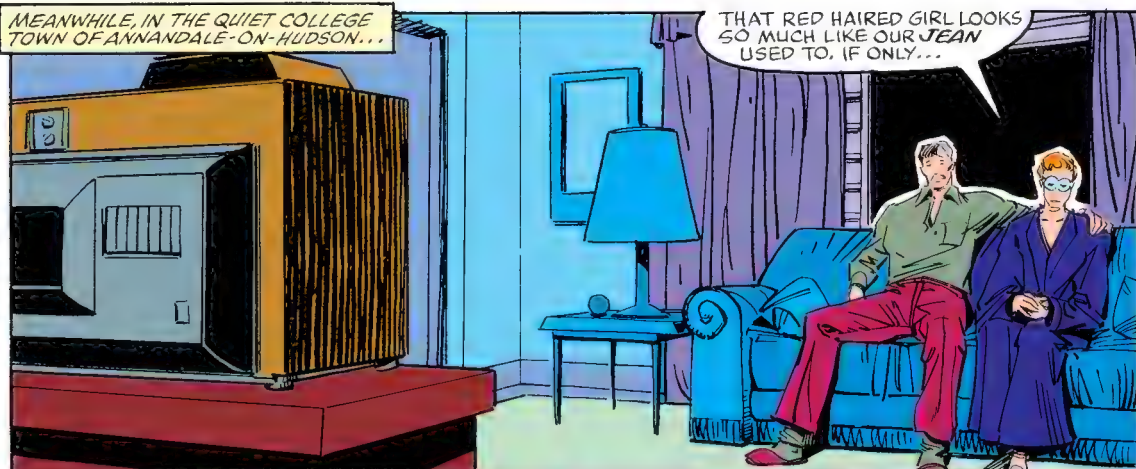
WORKS? HOW'D I
KNOW HOW IT WORKS?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT
THOSE KEYS MEAN!

I USED TO
KNOW LOTS
O' STUFF, BUT
NOW I DON'T
KNOW NUTHIN'!

SMASH!

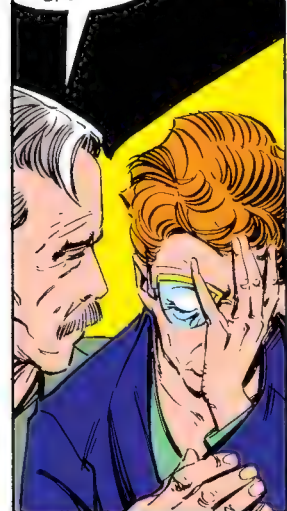


MEANWHILE, IN THE QUIET COLLEGE TOWN OF ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON...

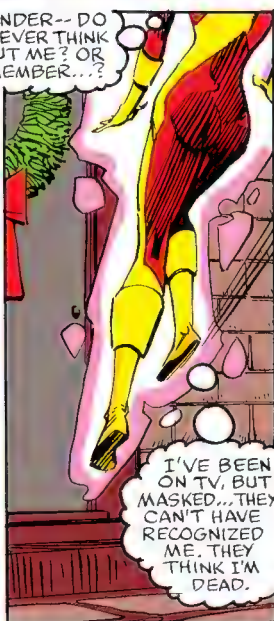


THAT RED HAIR GIRL LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE OUR JEAN USED TO, IF ONLY...

NOW, ELAINE, YOU KNOW IT CAN'T BE, DON'T GET YOURSELF ALL WORKED UP...



I WONDER-- DO THEY EVER THINK ABOUT ME? OR REMEMBER...?

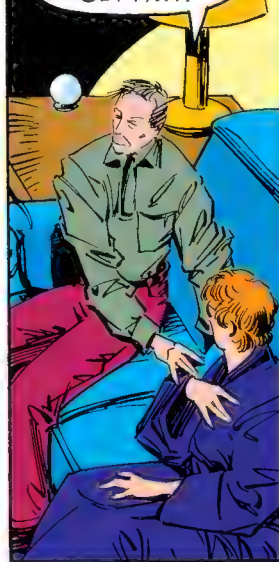


I'VE BEEN ON TV, BUT MASKED... THEY CAN'T HAVE RECOGNIZED ME. THEY THINK I'M DEAD.

IT'S BEEN TOO LONG. IT MAY NOT BE SAFE, BUT I'VE GOT TO TELL THEM. I HAVE TO LET THEM KNOW I'M ALIVE.

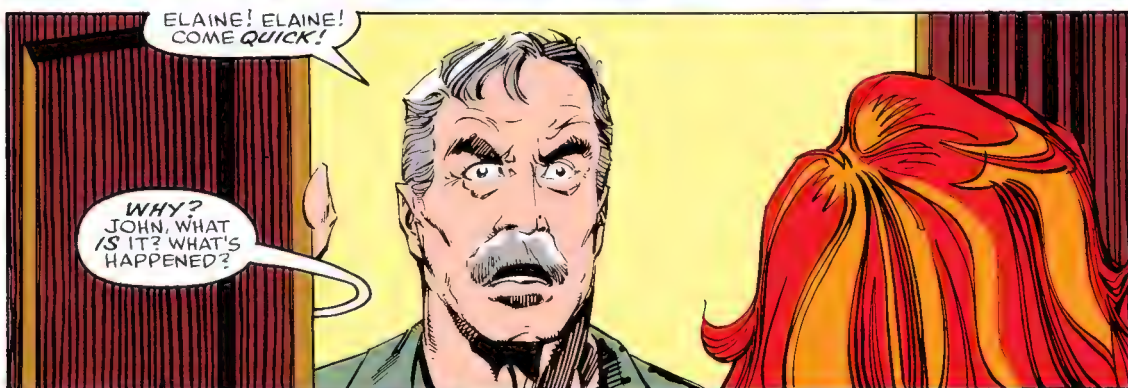


YOU JUST WAIT RIGHT HERE. I'LL GET IT...!



ELAINE! ELAINE! COME QUICK!

WHY? JOHN, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENED?



CLAK

CLICK





DAD... MOM... IT'S ME!
I KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS.
I... I HAVEN'T GOT A
PRESENT FOR YOU OR
ANYTHING, BUT--



ELAINE! SHE...
SHE'S SOLID...
NO GHOST...
REAL!

HAVING
YOU HERE,
ALIVE, IS
GIFT ENOUGH
FOR ANYONE!

HOURS PASS... AND THE MIRACLE OF
JEAN'S SURVIVAL HAS JUST BEGUN TO
REGISTER ON HER DAZED PARENTS WHEN...

MOM... HOW IS
SARA...? I SAW
HER ON TV, GIVING
A PRO-MUTANTS
SPEECH.

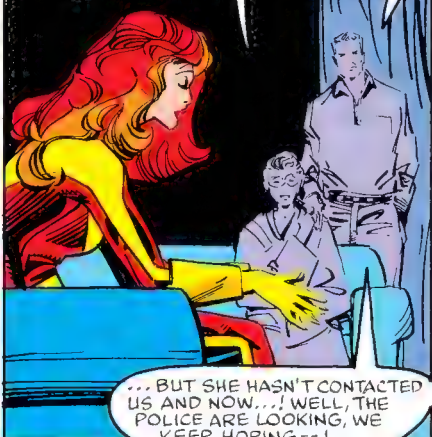
WE WERE IN ENGLAND
WHEN IT HAPPENED.
WE FOUND OUT...
TOO LATE.

I KNOW HER HOUSE
WAS FIREBOMBED
BUT SHE AND HER
FAMILY ESCAPED...
WHERE IS SHE--?

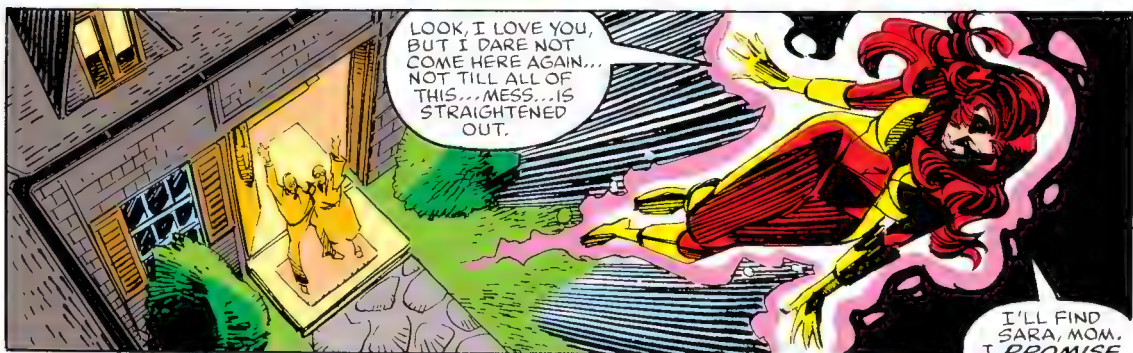
THERE WERE
NO BODIES, WE
THOUGHT AT
FIRST THAT
YOUR SISTER
HAD GONE INTO
HIDING...

EVIL FORCES SUR-
ROUND MUTANTS
THESE DAYS... AND
THEIR FAMILIES,
IT SEEMS.

I'VE EN-
DANGERED
YOU BY COMING
HERE.



... BUT SHE HASN'T CONTACTED
US AND NOW...! WELL, THE
POLICE ARE LOOKING, WE
KEEP HOPING--!



LOOK, I LOVE YOU,
BUT I DARE NOT
COME HERE AGAIN...
NOT TILL ALL OF
THIS... MESS... IS
STRAIGHTENED
OUT.

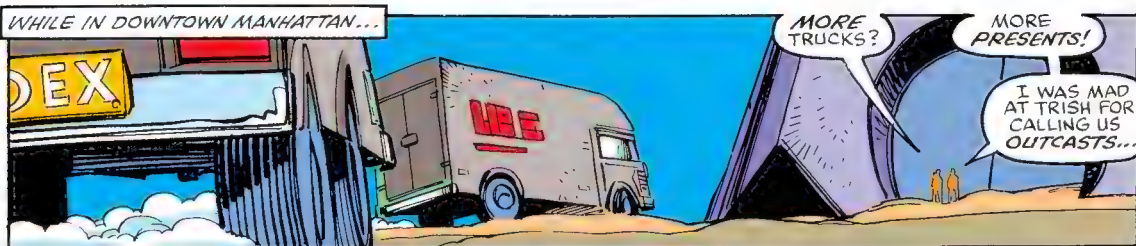
I'LL FIND
SARA, MOM.
I PROMISE.



CLIK

WHIRRR

WHILE IN DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN...



MORE TRUCKS?

MORE PRESENTS!

I WAS MAD AT TRISH FOR CALLING US OUTCASTS...



WILD, ISN'T IT? ALL THOSE NEW YORKERS...PEOPLE WE NEVER EVEN MET...EVEN STORES...

...CARING IF WE HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS. IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF MIRACLE...

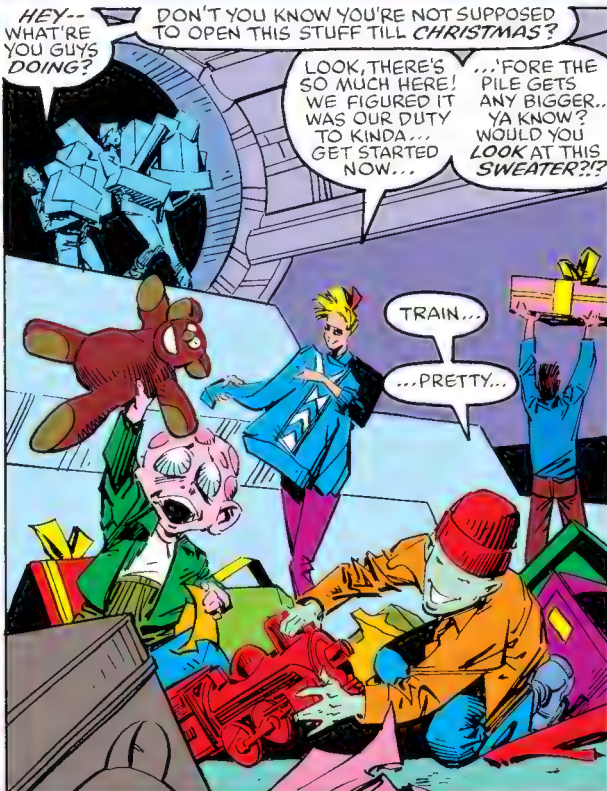
...BUT IF THIS IS THE PAY-OFF ...MAYBE I'LL RE-EVALUATE!

HEY-- WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING?

DON'T YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO OPEN THIS STUFF TILL CHRISTMAS?

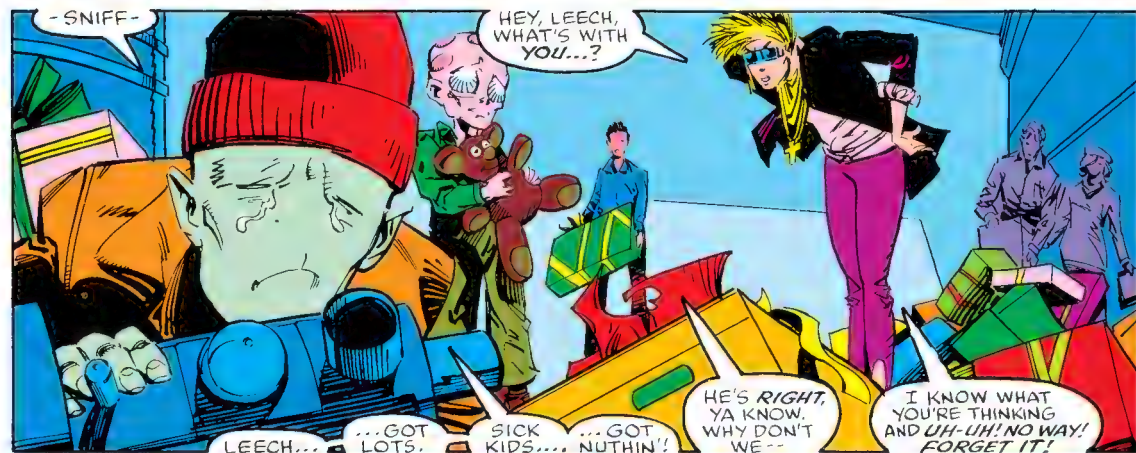
LOOK, THERE'S SO MUCH HERE! WE FIGURED IT WAS OUR DUTY TO KINDA... GET STARTED NOW...

...FORE THE PILE GETS ANY BIGGER... YA KNOW? WOULD YOU LOOK AT THIS SWEATER???



TRAIN...

...PRETTY...



- SNIFF -

HEY, LEECH, WHAT'S WITH YOU...?

...GOT LEECH...

...GOT LOTS.

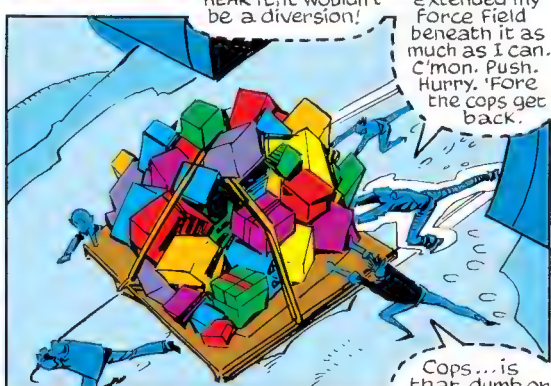
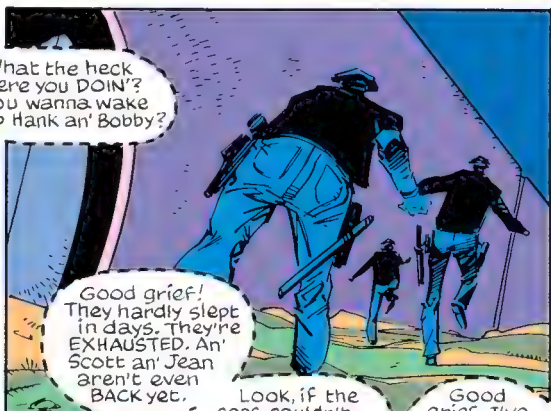
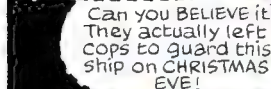
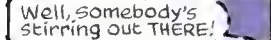
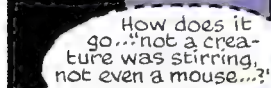
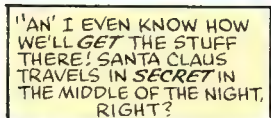
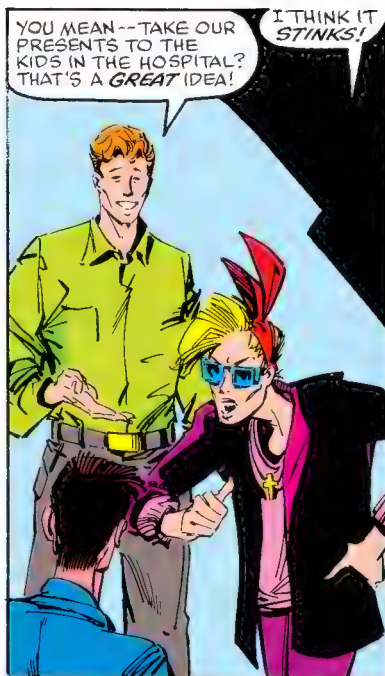
SICK KIDS...

...GOT NUTHIN'!

HE'S RIGHT, YA KNOW, WHY DON'T WE--

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING AND UH-UH! NO WAY! FORGET IT!





LATER...

IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE. I SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN HERE... WITH THE KIDS.

GLAD I SAW MOM AND DAD. THEY LOOK OLDER. FOR THEM IT'S BEEN YEARS... FOR ME, IT SEEMS LIKE... A FEW MONTHS?

TIME JUST... DISAPPEARED WHILE I LAY IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION AND THE WORLD WENT ON WITHOUT ME...

...CONVINCED I WAS DEAD. BY ALL RIGHTS, I SHOULD'VE BEEN DEAD.

I'D HOPED SCOTT AND I WOULD SPEND CHRISTMAS TOGETHER.

I LOVE HIM SO, I FINALLY HAD HIM... WE HAD EACH OTHER...

...AND NOW HE'S OFF AGAIN, CHASING PHANTOMS. WE'RE ALL POTENTIAL PHANTOMS. WHO'LL BE NEXT--?

THE KIDS? THEY SHOULD BE SLEEPING! THEY SHOULD BE HERE! WHERE ARE THEY?

BOBBY! HANK! THE KIDS-- THEY'RE GONE! HUH--?

I SAW MY PARENTS TONIGHT. MY SISTER AND HER KIDS ARE MISSING.

AND MADDIE AND SCOTT'S BABY AND... WHAT ABOUT CANDY SOUTHERN? WHERE IS SHE?

AND SCOTT'S GRANDPARENTS... ARE THEY REALLY ON THAT CRUISE OR--?

HOLD ON A SECOND, JEAN. YOU THINK SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO THE KIDS...

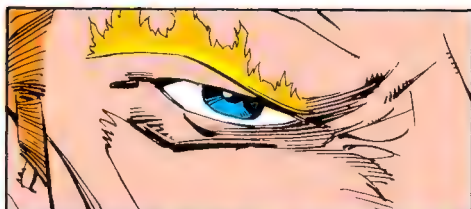
"...THAT THEY'RE IN TROUBLE...?"

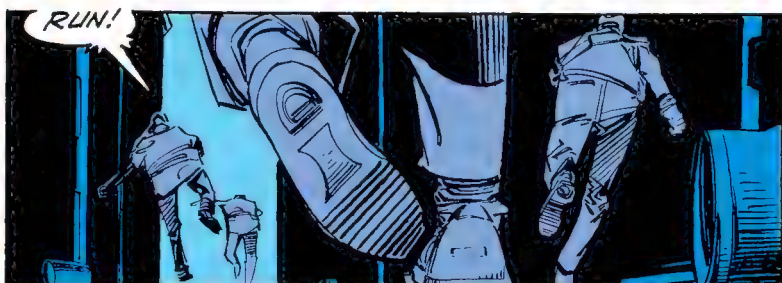
YOU SURE THIS IS THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL?

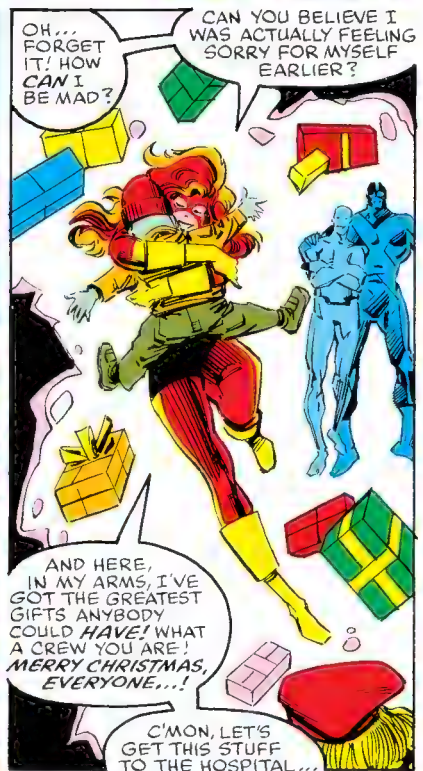
YOU WANNA GO TO THE HOSPITAL, DUDE, WE CAN GET YOU THERE... FAST AN' EASY!

SKIKT

POPP!







"...I'D SAY IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR SANTA CLAUS TO ARRIVE..."

WE'VE BEEN HERE ALL DAY AND IT'S BEEN WONDERFUL! JUST WHAT CHRISTMAS OUGHT TO BE!

HO! HO! HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS! WHY... THIS MUST BE FOR YOU!

GOSH... A REAL ELF! I NEVER SAW A ELF BEFORE.

LOOK-- FROSTY THE SNOW-MAN!
HE'S JUGGLING!
WATCH OUT, FROSTY! HE'S GONNA MELT YA!

SCOTT!

I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK... I WAS SO WORRIED.

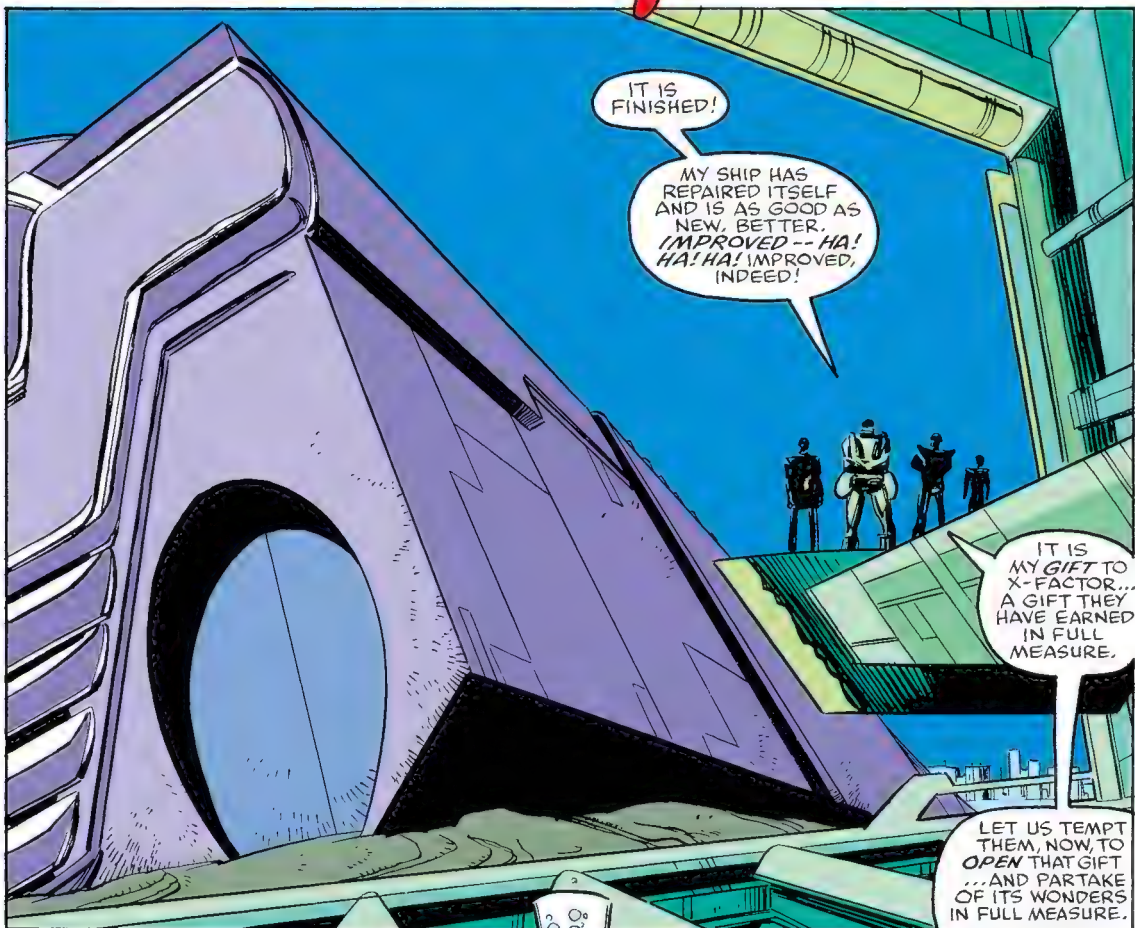
HOW'D YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND US?

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? EVERY TIME YOU BREATHE, IT'S A MEDIA EVENT.

JEAN... I CAN'T STAY.

I CAME TO TELL YOU THAT I'M LEAVING FOR THE AIRPORT. NOW, TONIGHT, I HAVE TO FIND MY MISSING SON!

CLIKK!



IT IS FINISHED!

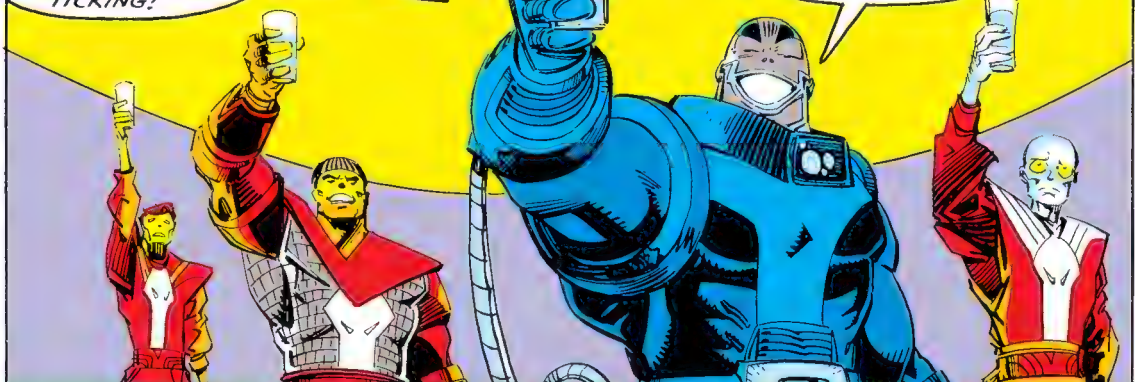
MY SHIP HAS REPAIRED ITSELF AND IS AS GOOD AS NEW, BETTER, IMPROVED -- HA! HA! HA! IMPROVED, INDEED!

IT IS MY GIFT TO X-FACTOR... A GIFT THEY HAVE EARNED IN FULL MEASURE.

LET US TEMPT THEM, NOW TO OPEN THAT GIFT... AND PARTAKE OF ITS WONDERS IN FULL MEASURE.

BUT BEWARE, X-FACTOR! BENEATH THE SHINY FOIL, I THINK I HEAR IT TICKING!

MERRY CHRISTMAS, X-FACTOR! IT MAY BE YOUR LAST!



NEXT ISSUE: **COUNTDOWN**

--THE FRIGHTFUL SECRET OF APOCALYPSE'S SHIP! DON'T MISS IT!

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

X FACTOR



COUNTDOWN!

DAYS AGO, A MONSTROUS SKY-SHIP, CAPTAINED BY A BEING CALLED APOCALYPSE, THREATENED TO DESTROY MANHATTAN.

X-FACTOR--A SMALL BAND OF MUTANT HEROES--WON CONTROL OF THE SHIP BY MEANS OF THEIR INBORN POWERS AND DOWNED IT IN THE HUDSON RIVER.

THOUGH IT PARTIALLY BLOCKED THE RIGHT-OF-WAY, THE RIVER'S PRACTICAL TUGBOAT CAPTAINS CHARTED A COURSE AROUND IT AND CARRIED ON BUSINESS AS USUAL, UNTIL NOW!

HAUL HARD
TO PORT!

WHAT
HAPPENED?
WE SHOULD
HAVE MISSED
IT BY
A MILE!

WE DIDN'T HIT IT,
GILROY! IT HIT US!
THAT SUCKER'S MOVING
--ALMOST LIKE IT'S
COME TO LIFE!

CRASH!

LOUISE SIMONSON PLOT/SCRIPTER WALTER SIMONSON PLOT/PENCILER BOB WIACEK INKER JOE ROSEN LETTERER PETRA SCOTESI COLORIST BOB HARRAS EDITOR TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THAT TUG RAMMED US!

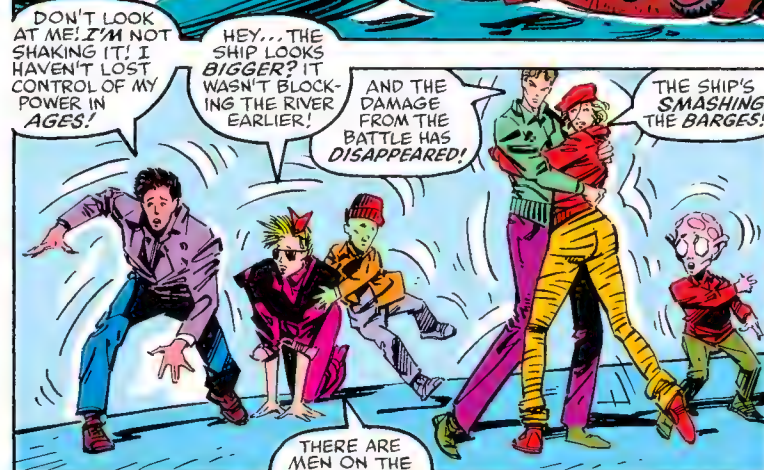
MAYBE... BUT THAT LITTLE TUG CAN'T HAVE SHAKEN THE WHOLE SHIP!

RICTOR--?

BASH!

CRASH!

SLAM!



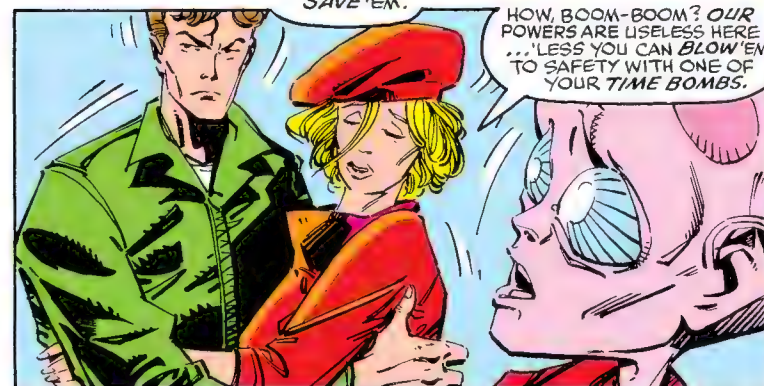
DON'T LOOK AT ME! I'M NOT SHAKING IT! I HAVEN'T LOST CONTROL OF MY POWER IN AGES!

HEY... THE SHIP LOOKS BIGGER? IT WASN'T BLOCKING THE RIVER EARLIER!

AND THE DAMAGE FROM THE BATTLE HAS DISAPPEARED!

THE SHIP'S SMASHING THE BARGES!

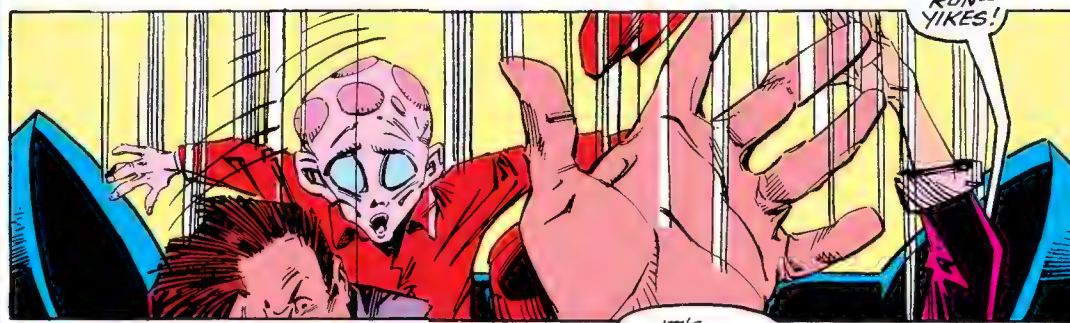
THERE ARE MEN ON THE TUG! WE GOTTA SAVE 'EM.



HOW, BOOM-BOOM? OUR POWERS ARE USELESS HERE... LESS YOU CAN BLOW 'EM TO SAFETY WITH ONE OF YOUR TIME BOMBS.

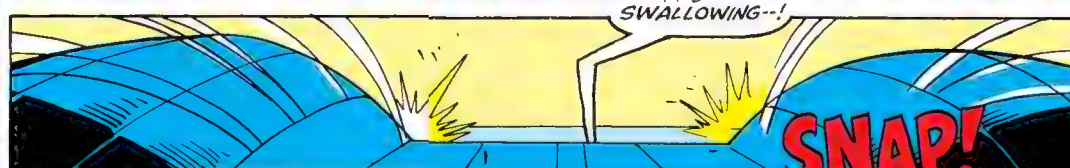


C'MON! WE GOTTA TELL X-FACTOR!

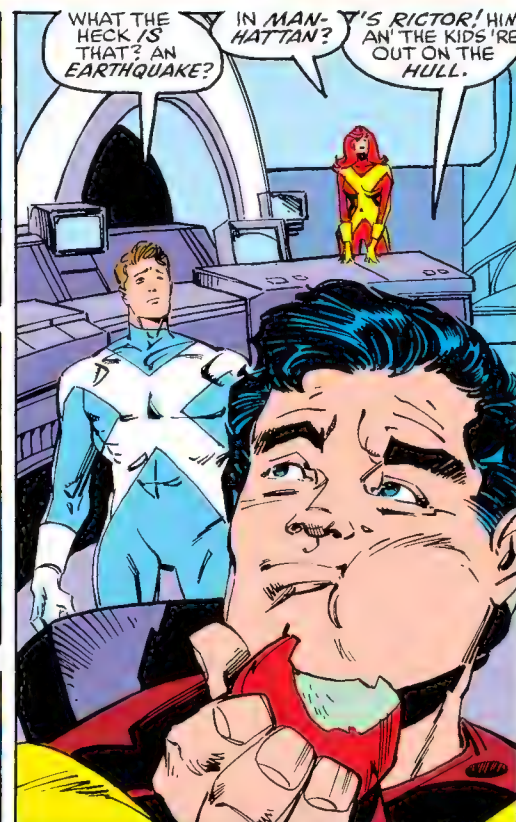


YEAH! RUN--YIKES!

IT'S SWALLOWING--!



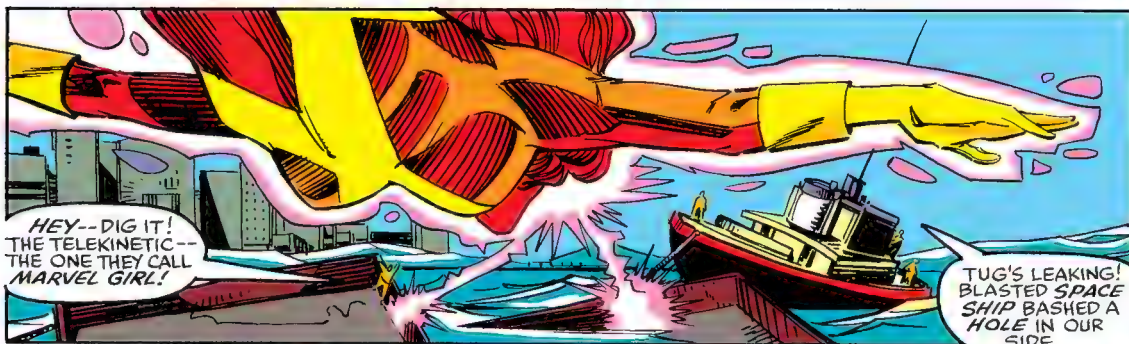
SNAP!



WHAT THE HECK IS THAT? AN EARTHQUAKE?

IN MANHATTAN?

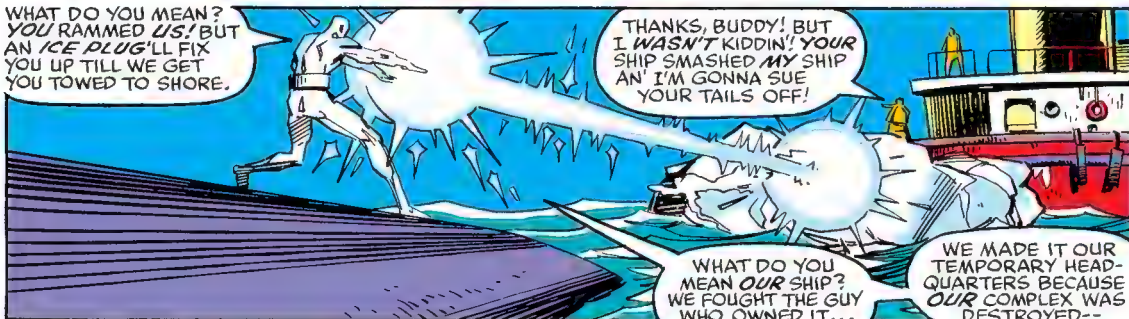
IT'S RICTOR! HIM AN' THE KIDS'RE OUT ON THE HULL.



HEY-- DIG IT!
THE TELEKINETIC--
THE ONE THEY CALL
MARVEL GIRL!

TUG'S LEAKING!
BLASTED SPACE
SHIP BASHED A
HOLE IN OUR
SIDE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU RAMMED US! BUT
AN ICE PLUG'LL FIX
YOU UP TILL WE GET
YOU TOWED TO SHORE.



THANKS, BUDDY! BUT
I WASN'T KIDDIN'! YOUR
SHIP SMASHED MY SHIP
AN' I'M GONNA SUE
YOUR TAILS OFF!

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN OUR SHIP?
WE FOUGHT THE GUY
WHO OWNED IT...

WE MADE IT OUR
TEMPORARY HEAD-
QUARTERS BECAUSE
OUR COMPLEX WAS
DESTROYED--

ALONG WITH HALF
THE CITY! YOU AN'
YOUR X-FACTOR
CREW 'RE RESPONSIB-
LE FOR PUTTING
THAT SHIP HERE
AN'--



DON'T WASTE YOUR
BREATH, BOBBY.. IT
SOUNDS LIKE HIS
MIND'S MADE UP.



HEY, AREN'T THE
KIDS SUPPOSED
TO BE OUT HERE
SOMEWHERE?

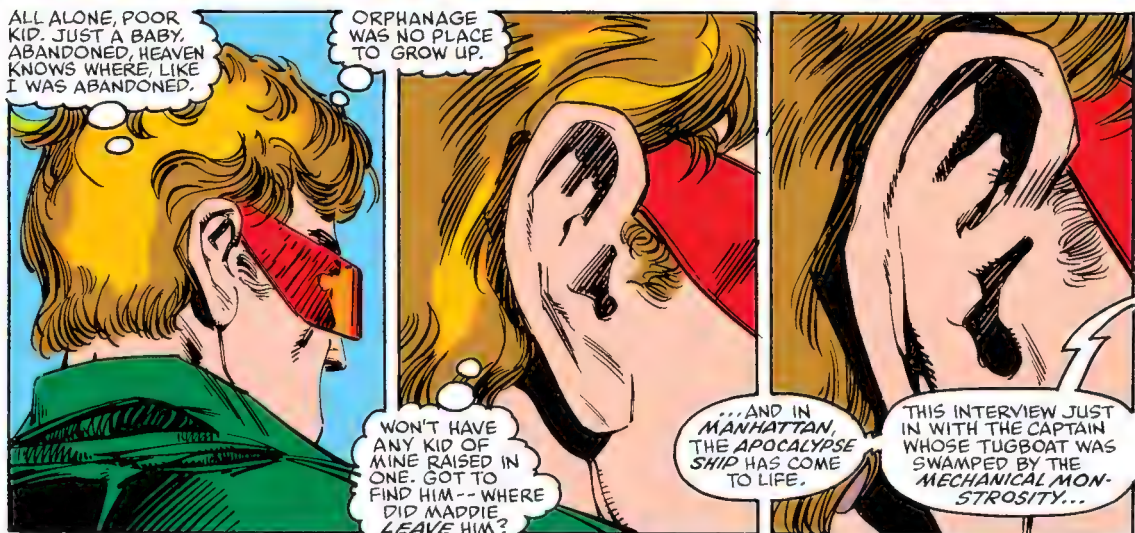
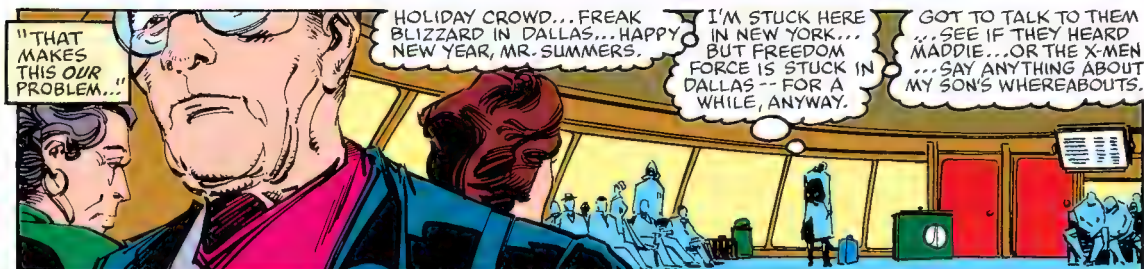
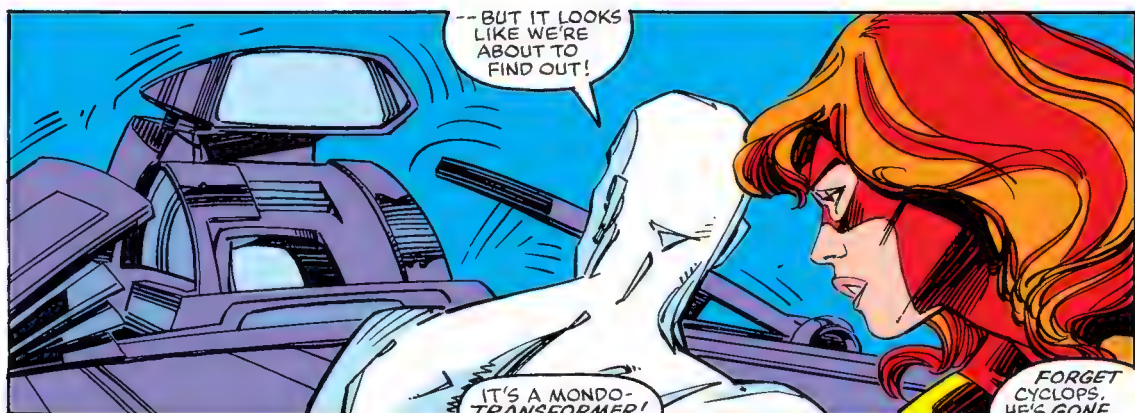


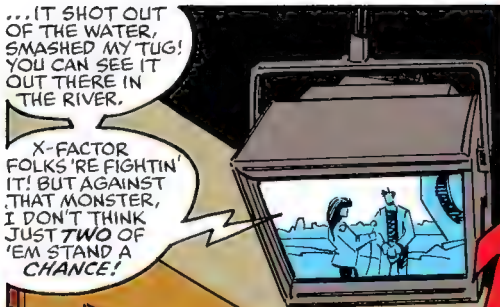
YEAH, THEY ARE.
DON'T SEE 'EM,
THOUGH.

AND I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
MAKES THAT
DUDE THINK
OUR SHIP
ATTACKED
HIS--



KRACHONK

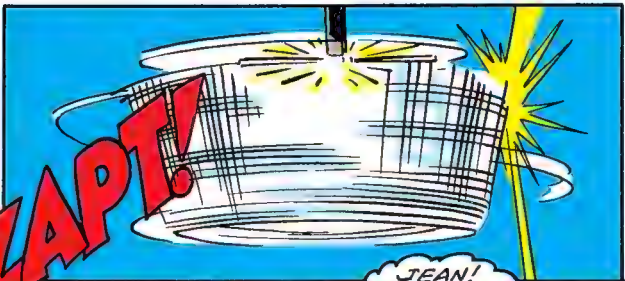




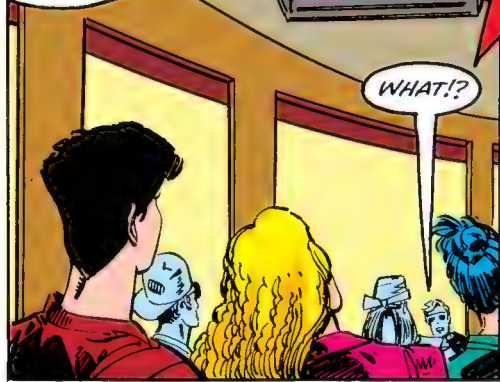
...IT SHOT OUT OF THE WATER, SMASHED MY TUG! YOU CAN SEE IT OUT THERE IN THE RIVER.

X-FACTOR FOLKS 'RE FIGHTIN' IT! BUT AGAINST THAT MONSTER, I DON'T THINK JUST TWO OF 'EM STAND A CHANCE!

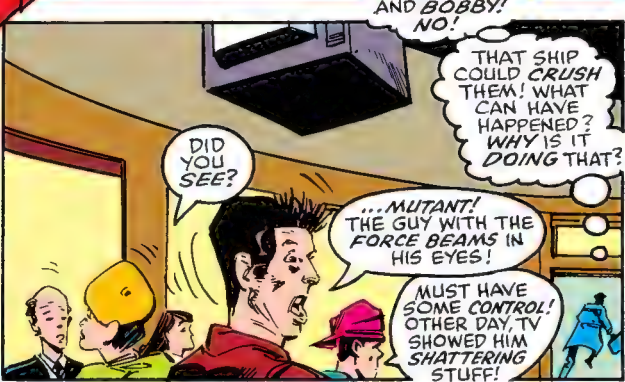
ZAPT!



JEAN! AND BOBBY! NO!



WHAT!?



DID YOU SEE?

...MUTANT! THE GUY WITH THE FORCE BEAMS IN HIS EYES!

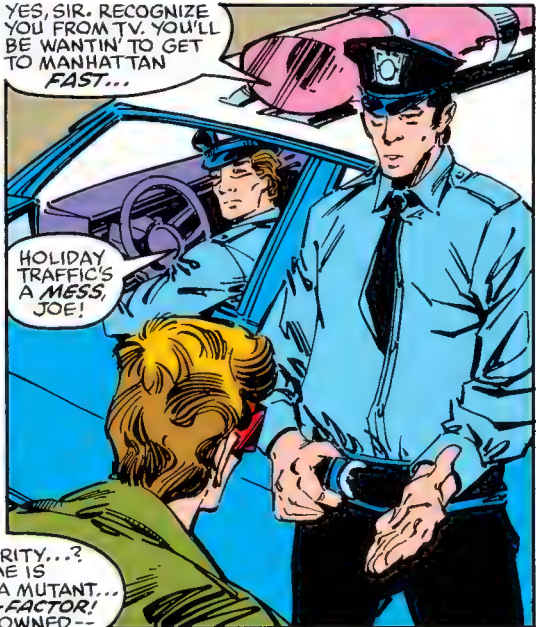
MUST HAVE SOME CONTROL! OTHER DAY, TV SHOWED HIM SHATTERING STUFF!



...SHIP'S TRANSFORMATION IN MANHATTAN. AIR TRAFFIC HAS BEEN RE-ROUTED--

OUR WARDS ARE ON THE SHIP... KIDS... MY SON... IN DALLAS. CAN'T LET THEM BE HURT... MY SON...

NO MATTER WHO I CHOOSE, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN WIN.



YES, SIR. RECOGNIZE YOU FROM TV. YOU'LL BE WANTIN' TO GET TO MANHATTAN FAST...

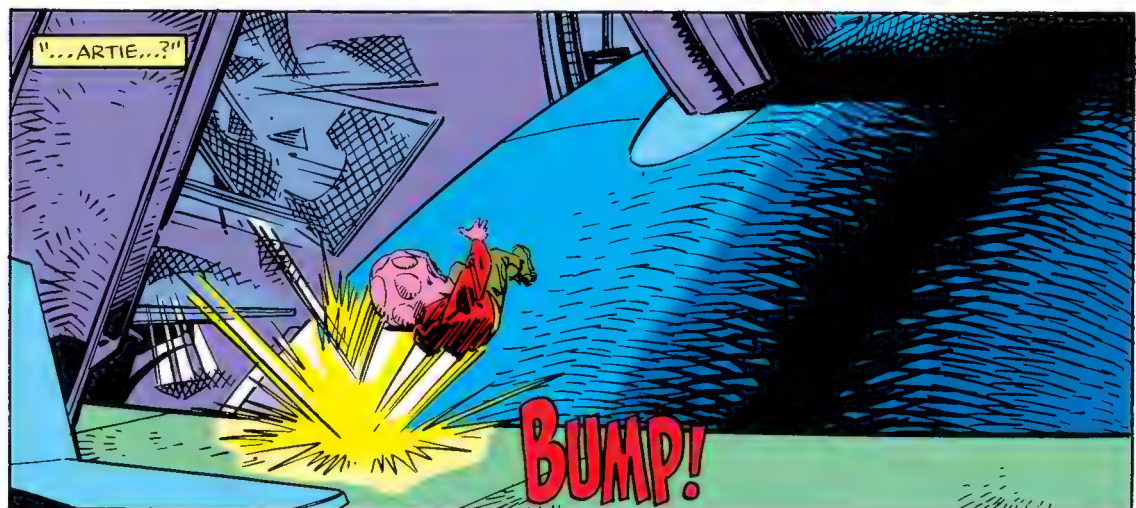
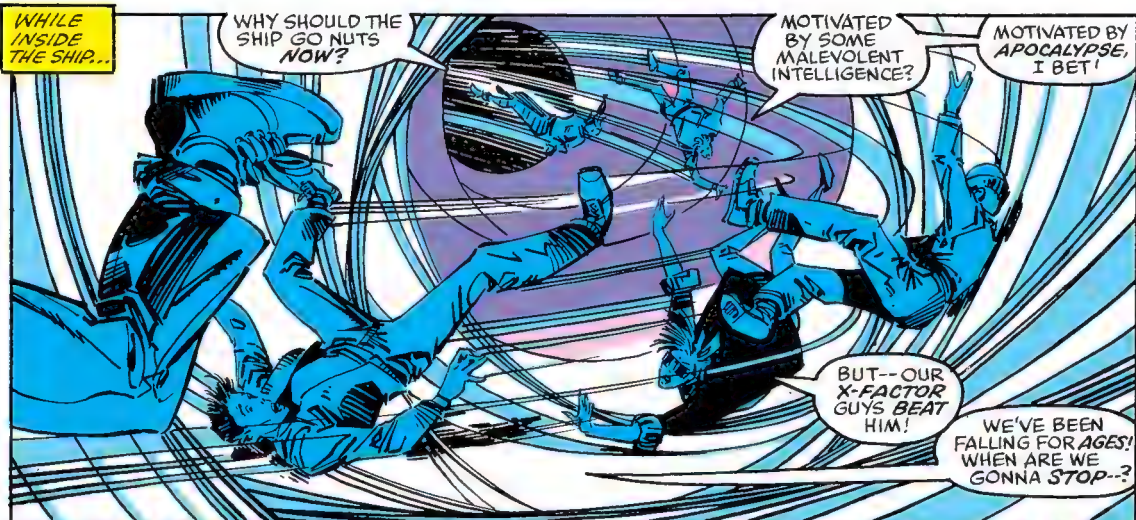
HOLIDAY TRAFFIC'S A MESS, JOE!

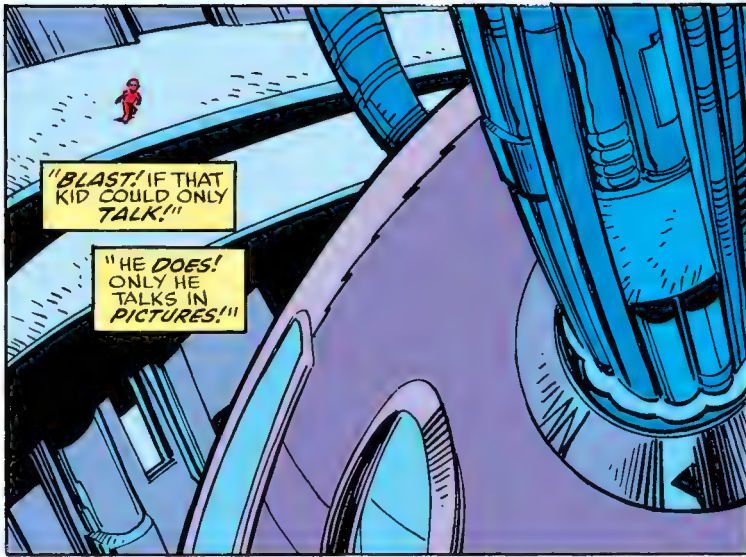
AIRPORT SECURITY...? MY CODE NAME IS CYCLOPS--I'M A MUTANT... A MEMBER OF X-FACTOR! THAT SHIP WE DOWNED--



"I'M NOT TALKIN' 'BOUT TAKIN' THE SQUAD CAR."

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP





"BLAST! IF THAT KID COULD ONLY TALK!"

"HE DOES! ONLY HE TALKS IN PICTURES!"

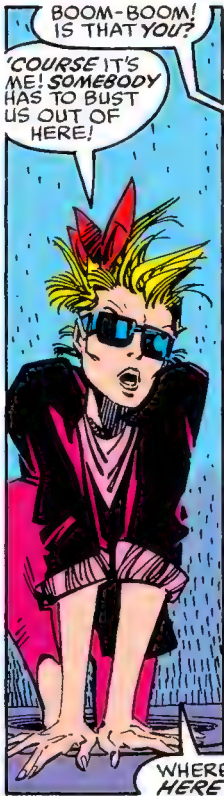


"A LOT OF GOOD THAT DOES US NOW!"



...3
...2
...1...

BOOM!



BOOM-BOOM! IS THAT YOU?

"COURSE IT'S ME! SOMEBODY HAS TO BUST US OUT OF HERE!"

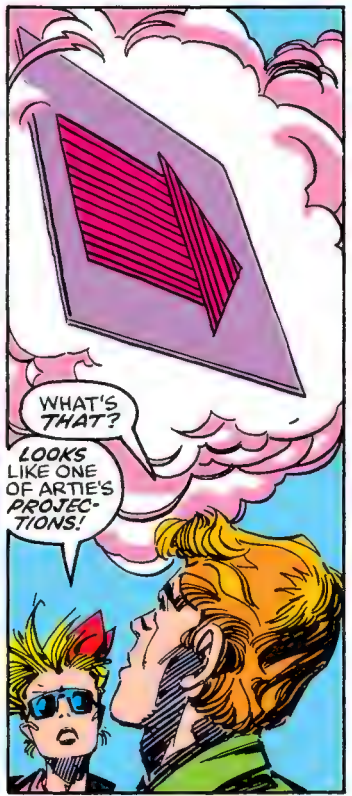


ARTIE! YOU IN THERE, GUY?

BOOM-BOOM! HE'S NOT HERE! HE'S--

BOOM!

WHEREVER HERE IS...!



WHAT'S THAT?

LOOKS LIKE ONE OF ARTIE'S PROJECTIONS!



HEY, LOOK, IT'S MOVING! I THINK WE'RE SUPPOSED TO FOLLOW...!

WHILE ELSEWHERE, IN THE MAIN COMMUNICATIONS COMPLEX...

MY FEET 'RE STUCK! BOBBY FROZE MY FEET.

WHILE ELSEWHERE, IN THE MAIN COMMUNICATIONS COMPLEX...

MY FEET 'RE STUCK! BOBBY FROZE MY FEET.

HE DID IT FOR MY GOOD 'CAUSE I SHOULDN'T OUGHTA HELP 'CAUSE THE MORE I USE MY STRENGTH, THE DUMBER I GET!

BUT THE SHIP KEEPS ROCKIN' 'ROUND AN' IT SOUNDS LIKE *GUNS* UP THERE AN' IT JUST DON'T FEEL *RIGHT!*

HE DID IT FOR MY GOOD 'CAUSE I SHOULDN'T OUGHTA HELP 'CAUSE THE MORE I USE MY STRENGTH, THE DUMBER I GET!

BUT THE SHIP KEEPS ROCKIN' 'ROUND AN' IT SOUNDS LIKE *GUNS* UP THERE AN' IT JUST DON'T FEEL *RIGHT!*

I'M **REAL** STRONG NOW! I BET... I CAN BREAK IT IF I **WANT** TO... AN' IT WOULDN'T TAKE **MUCH** STRENGTH...

...AN' MY FEET WOULDN'T BE COLD ANY MORE...

KRAK--SNAP!

I'M **REAL** STRONG NOW! I BET... I CAN BREAK IT IF I **WANT** TO... AN' IT WOULDN'T TAKE **MUCH** STRENGTH...

...AN' MY FEET WOULDN'T BE COLD ANY MORE...

KRAK--SNAP!

...AN' IF THEY'RE IN TROUBLE I CAN HELP!

"THEY BEEN UP

...AN' IF THEY'RE IN TROUBLE I CAN HELP!

"THEY BEEN UP

LONG TIME!"

FWOOM! FWOOM! FWOOM!

BLAST! COILS NEUTRALIZE THE COLD FAST AS I CAN GENERATE IT! HARD TO CONCENTRATE! GUN SWINGING THIS WAY!

JEAN'S GOT ALL SHE CAN HANDLE DEFLECTING THE ROCKETS! SHE SPARES A THOUGHT FOR ME AND SHE'S PULP!

ONE MORE SECOND AND I'LL BE--

LONG TIME!"

FWOOM! FWOOM! FWOOM!

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ONE MORE SECOND AND I'LL BE--

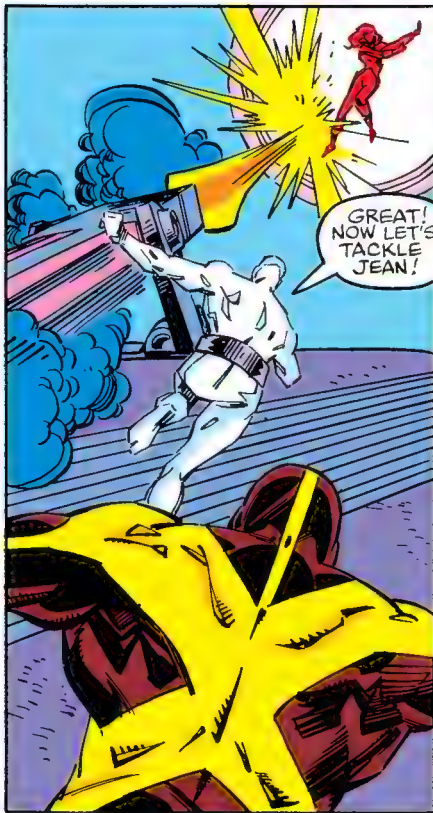
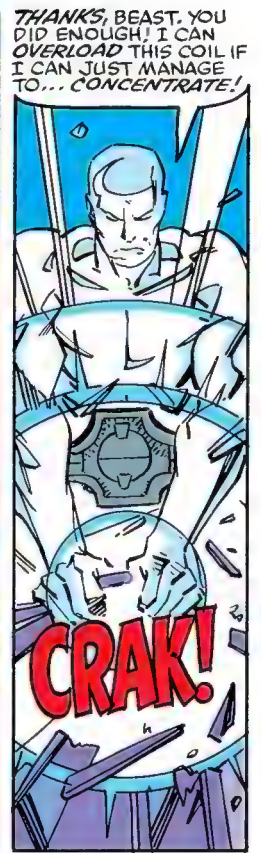
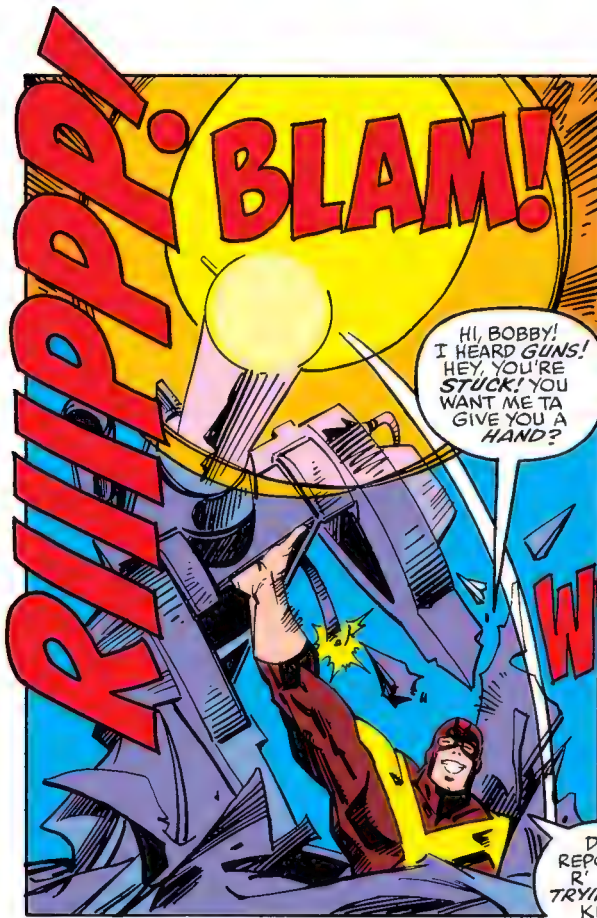
LONG TIME!"

FWOOM! FWOOM! FWOOM!

BLAST! COILS NEUTRALIZE THE COLD FAST AS I CAN GENERATE IT! HARD TO CONCENTRATE! GUN SWINGING THIS WAY!

JEAN'S GOT ALL SHE CAN HANDLE DEFLECTING THE ROCKETS! SHE SPARES A THOUGHT FOR ME AND SHE'S PULP!

ONE MORE SECOND AND I'LL BE--



ICEMAN, QUIT GAWKING AND HELP JEAN!

FREEZE THE OTHER ROCKET LAUNCHER!

ZAPT!

CYKE!

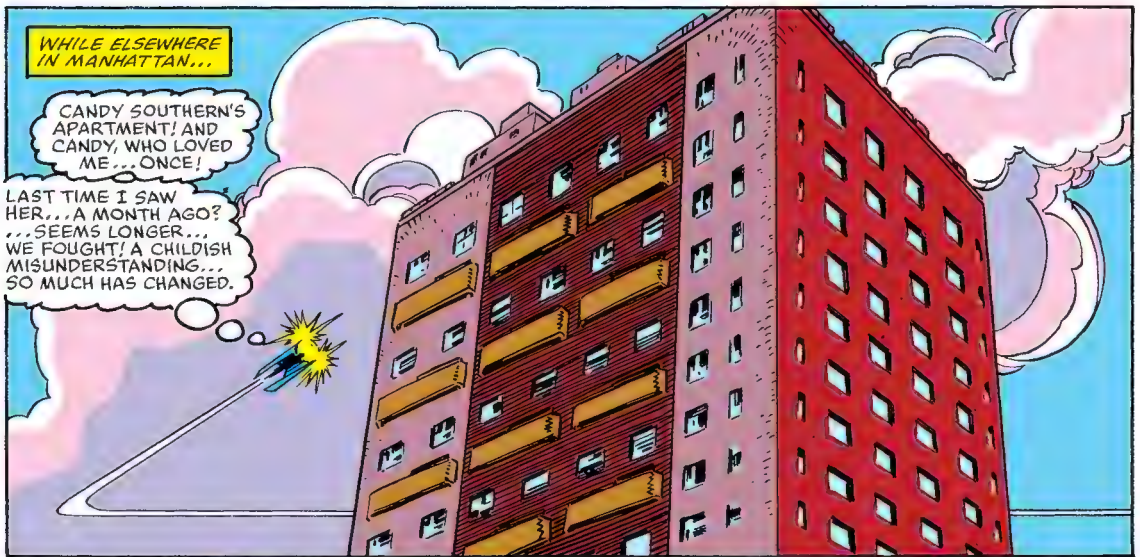
LOCK ITS MECHANISM! HURRY!

BOOM!

SCOTT... THANKS... BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED.

WE'VE GOT TO LEARN TO HANDLE THINGS OURSELVES. IF WE CAN'T--

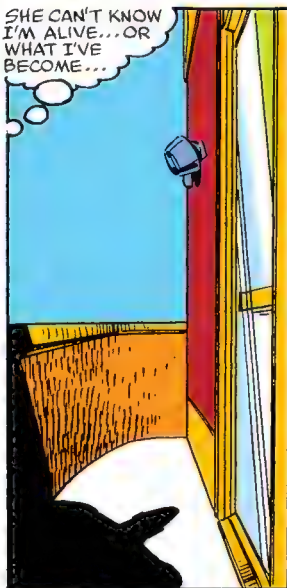
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, JEAN! AND I'M NOT SURE THAT ALL OF US TOGETHER CAN HANDLE THAT!



WHILE ELSEWHERE
IN MANHATTAN...

CANDY SOUTHERN'S
APARTMENT! AND
CANDY, WHO LOVED
ME... ONCE!

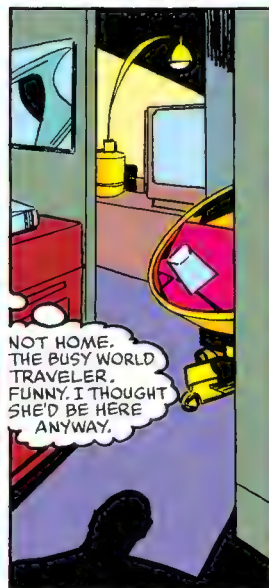
LAST TIME I SAW
HER... A MONTH AGO?
...SEEMS LONGER...
WE FOUGHT! A CHILDISH
MISUNDERSTANDING...
SO MUCH HAS CHANGED.



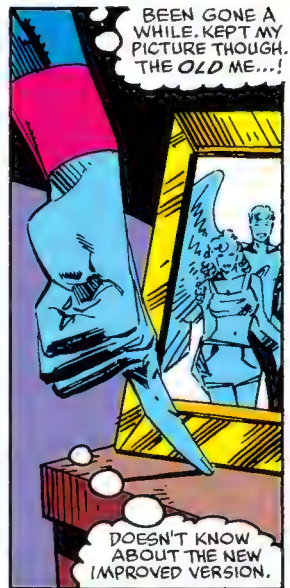
SHE CAN'T KNOW
I'M ALIVE... OR
WHAT I'VE
BECOME...



CANDY--?

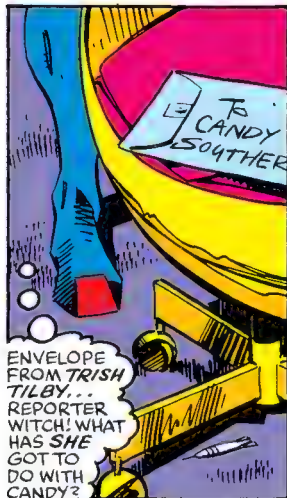


NOT HOME.
THE BUSY WORLD
TRAVELER.
FUNNY I THOUGHT
SHE'D BE HERE
ANYWAY.

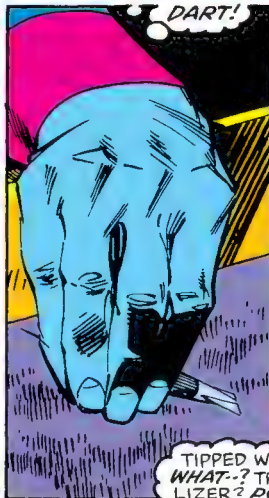


BEEN GONE A
WHILE. KEPT MY
PICTURE THOUGH.
THE OLD ME...!

DOESN'T KNOW
ABOUT THE NEW
IMPROVED VERSION.

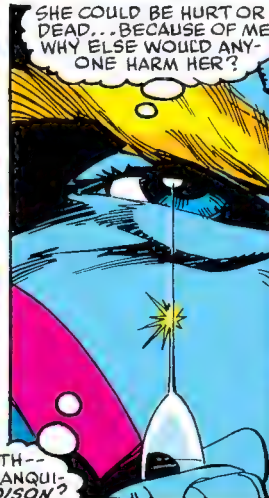


ENVELOPE
FROM TRISH
TILBY...
REPORTER
WITCH! WHAT
HAS SHE
GOT TO
DO WITH
CANDY?

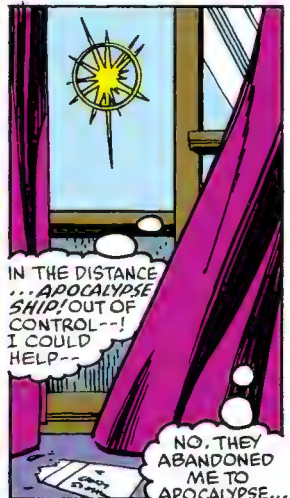


DART!

TIPPED WITH--
WHAT--? TRANQUI-
LIZER? POISON?

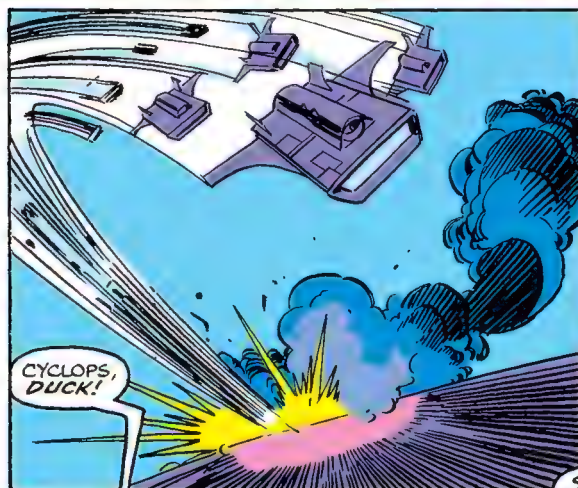
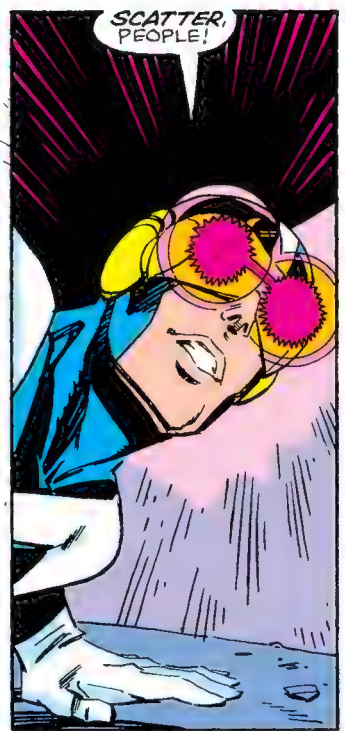
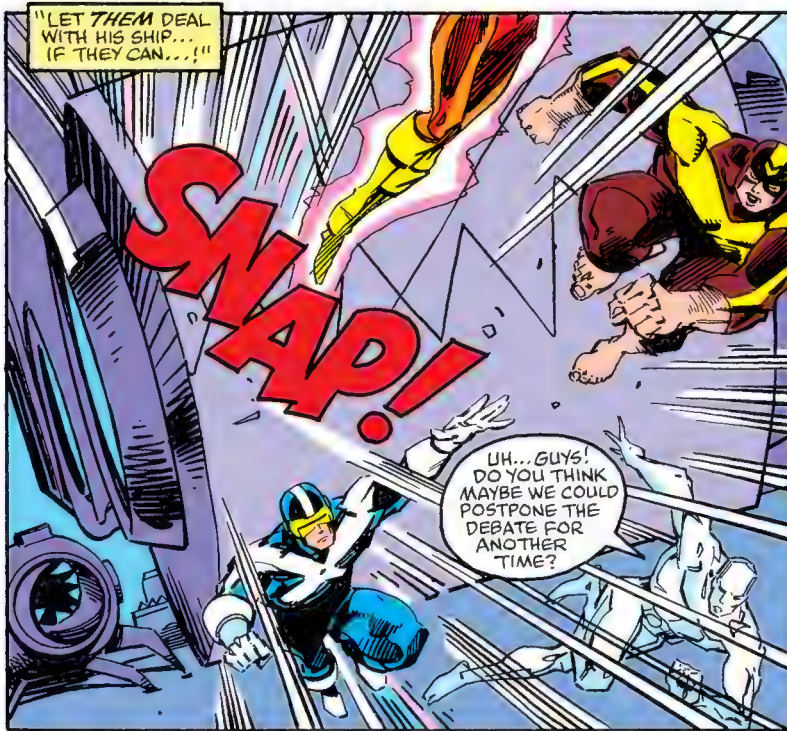


SHE COULD BE HURT OR
DEAD... BECAUSE OF ME.
WHY ELSE WOULD ANY-
ONE HARM HER?



IN THE DISTANCE
...APOCALYPSE
SHIP! OUT OF
CONTROL!--!
I COULD
HELP--

NO. THEY
ABANDONED
ME TO
APOCALYPSE...

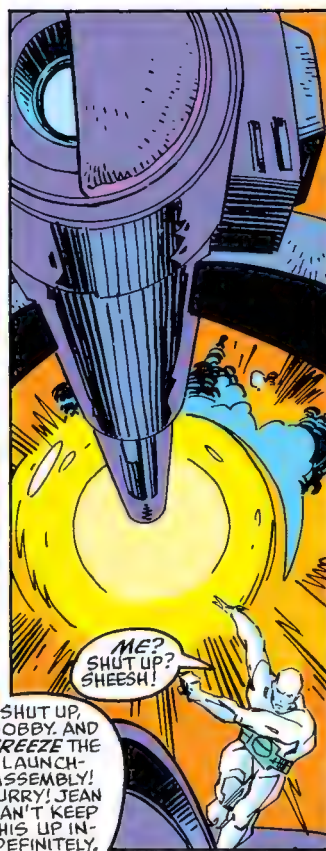




YOU SMASHED 'EM TOGETHER, JEAN! THAT WAS REAL GOOD!

CYKE SAVED YOU, YOU SAVED HIM! WHAT SAY YOU CALL IT EVEN?

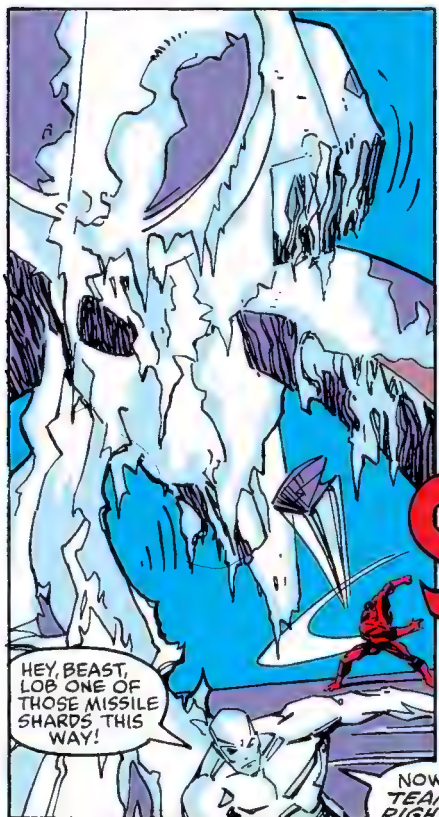
SHUT UP, BOBBY. AND FREEZE THE LAUNCH-ASSEMBLY! HURRY! JEAN CAN'T KEEP THIS UP INDEFINITELY.



ME? SHUT UP? SHEESH!

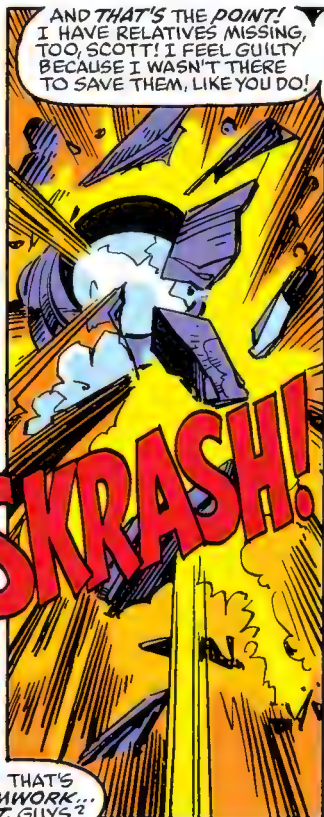


YOU THINK I CAN'T TALK AND FREEZE STUFF AT THE SAME TIME?



HEY, BEAST, LOB ONE OF THOSE MISSILE SHARDS THIS WAY!

NOW THAT'S TEAMWORK... RIGHT, GUYS?

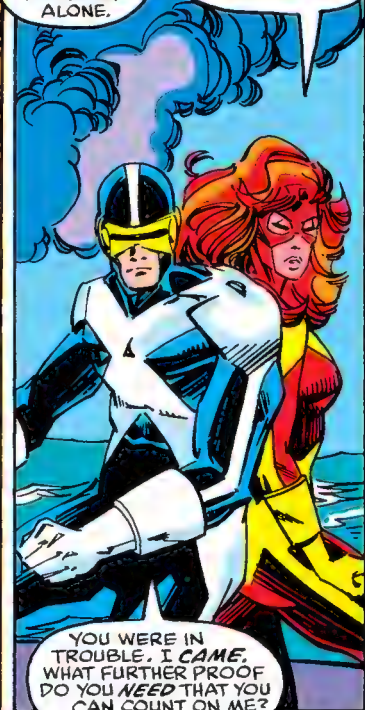


SKRASH!

AND THAT'S THE POINT! I HAVE RELATIVES MISSING, TOO, SCOTT! I FEEL GUILTY BECAUSE I WASN'T THERE TO SAVE THEM, LIKE YOU DO!

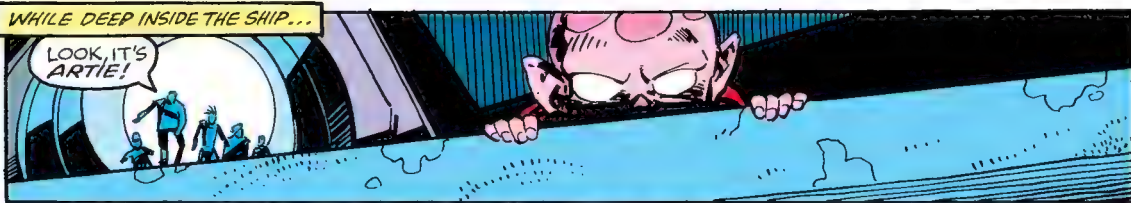
BUT SCOTT-- YOU LEFT. INSISTED ON TREATING IT LIKE IT'S YOUR PROBLEM ALONE.

YOU'LL WALK AWAY AGAIN WHEN THIS IS OVER. I DON'T WANT TO GET USED TO... TO COUNTING ON YOU.



YOU WERE IN TROUBLE. I CAME. WHAT FURTHER PROOF DO YOU NEED THAT YOU CAN COUNT ON ME?

WHILE DEEP INSIDE THE SHIP...



LOOK, IT'S
ARTIE!

HEY, ARTIE,
HOW'D YOU
GET DOWN
HERE?

WHAT'RE
YOU LOOK-
ING AT?

CHECK
IT OUT!
IT'S
HUGE!

YEAH,
BUT...WHAT
IS IT?

LISTEN, LEECH,
KEEP BACK, OKAY?
ARTIE NEEDS TO
USE HIS POWER
TO TELL US.

HE SAYS IT'S
A BRAIN...
THE SHIP'S
BRAIN---

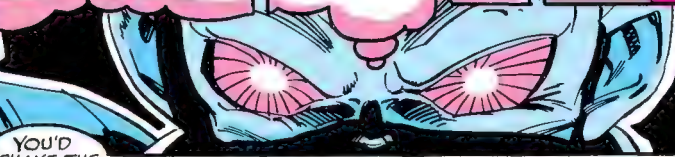
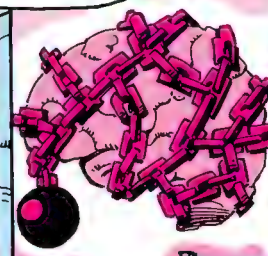
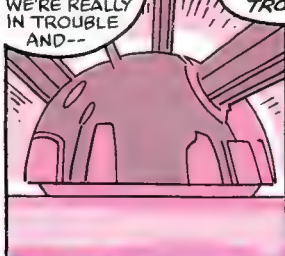
BUT--
HOW DOES
HE KNOW?

WELL, HE
CAN SORTA
READ OUR
MINDS SOME-
TIMES... IF
WE'RE REALLY
IN TROUBLE
AND--

HEY, IS
THAT IT, ARTIE?
IS THE SHIP'S
BRAIN IN
TROUBLE?

LOOK-- A BALL
AND CHAIN! YEAH,
IT IS! BUT WHERE'S
THE TROUBLE?

THAT FUNNY LOOK-
ING GADGET OVER
THERE? THAT'S THE BALL
AND CHAIN. AND YOU WANT
US TO GET RID OF IT?



I COULD
TRY TO
SHAKE
IT OFF...!

YOU'D
SHAKE THE
BRAIN TO
JELLY.

BUT A
TIME
BOMB...

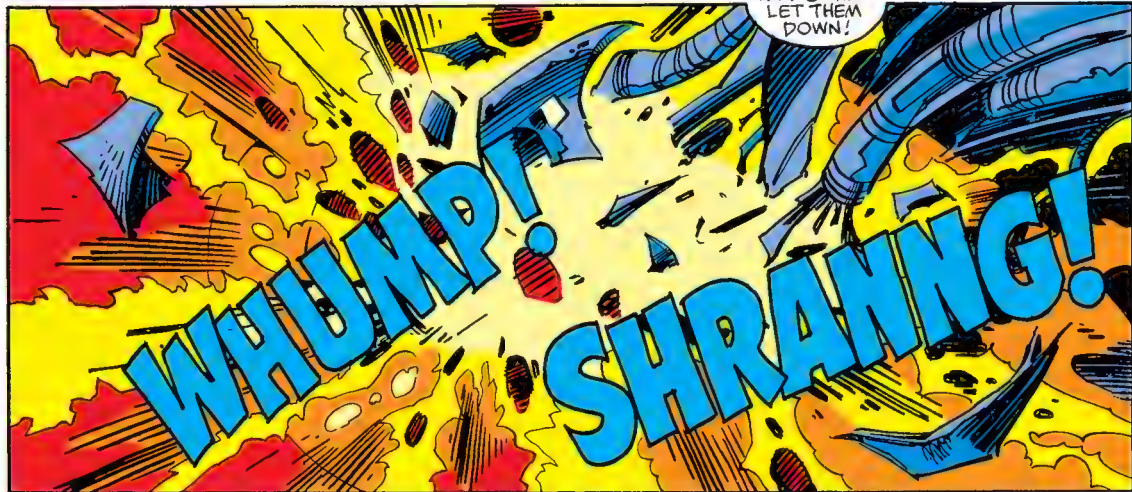
...COULD
BLOW THE
SHACKLE
AND THE
BRAIN TO
SMITHER-
EENS!

AWRIGHT--THEN
YOU DO IT, IF
YOU'RE SO
GREAT!

ONLY DON'T
BLAME ME IF
THE WHOLE SHIP
BURSTS INTO
FLAMES AND WE
DIE IN A RAGING
INFERNO.

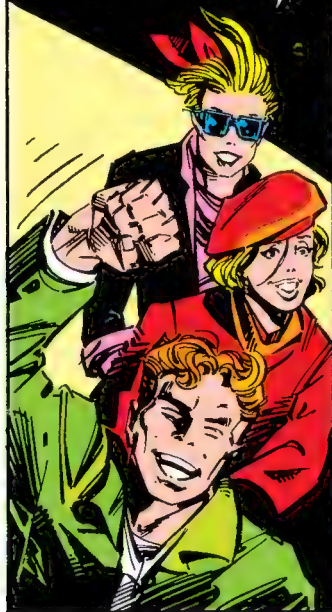
OH...SHUT
UP, SCOTT AND
JEAN WORKED
HARD ENOUGH TO
TRAIN ME...

...AND I'M
NOT GONNA
LET THEM
DOWN!



THANK YOU FOR
FREEING MY
EXTERNAL LOGIC
FUNCTIONS.

IT'S THE
SHIP! IT
TALKS!



I DO...NOW. BUT APOCALYPSE, MY
MASTER, STILL CONTROLS MUCH OF
MY BODY, AND THAT IS BAD...10...

WHY'D
YOU SAY
"TEN?"

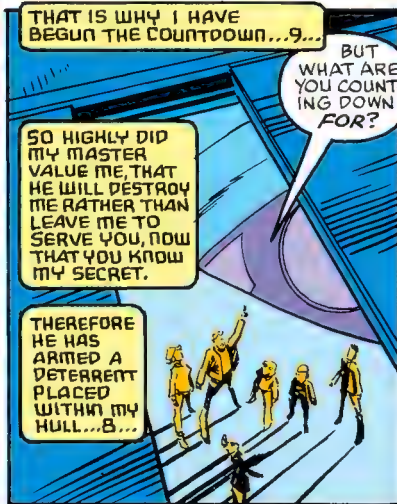
NUMEROUS OVERRIDE SIGNALS
WERE SENT TO ALLOW
APOCALYPSE'S PROGRAM TO
RUN UNDETERRED...

THAT IS WHY I HAVE
BEGUN THE COUNTDOWN...9...

BUT
WHAT ARE
YOU COUNT-
ING DOWN
FOR?

SO HIGHLY DID
MY MASTER
VALUE ME, THAT
HE WILL DESTROY
ME RATHER THAN
LEAVE ME TO
SERVE YOU, NOW
THAT YOU KNOW
MY SECRET.

THEREFORE
HE HAS
ARMED A
DETERRENT
PLACED
WITHIN MY
HULL...8...



DETERRENT...
AS IN BOMB?
WE BETTER WARN
X-FACTOR!

APOCALYPSE
WILL NOT
ALLOW THAT
...7...

CLANG!



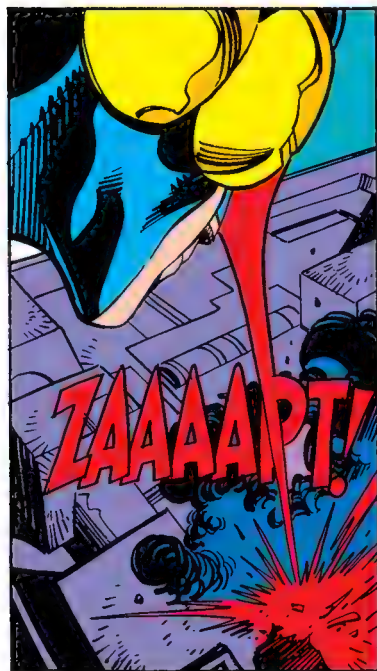
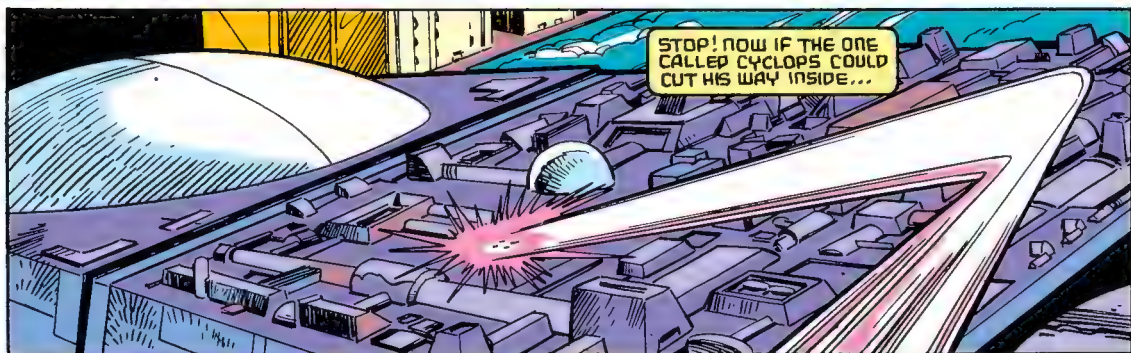
...AND YOU WILL REMAIN TRAPPED HERE WITH ME UNLESS THOSE WITHOUT CAN SAVE US...6...

INCREDIBLE! IT'S QUIT FIGHTING US!

SHIP...WE CAN HEAR YOU, CAN YOU HEAR US? WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A BOMB IN YOUR HULL. WE WILL REMOVE IT.

...BUT WHERE...?

IF THE ONE CALLED MARVEL GIRL WILL LIFT YOU...?...5...



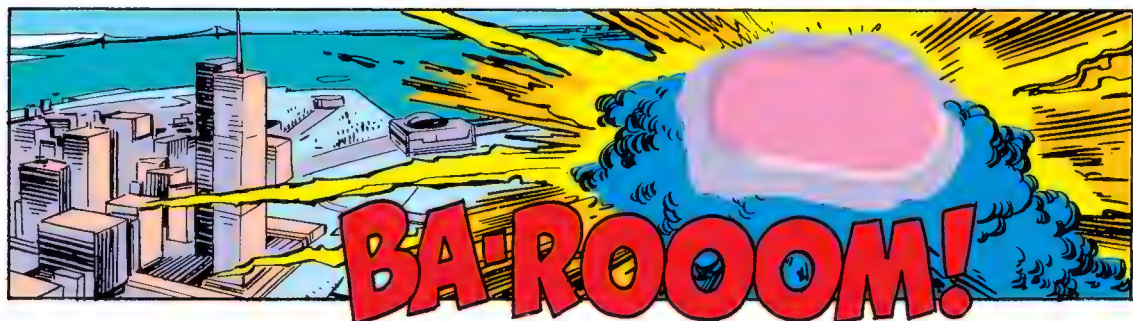
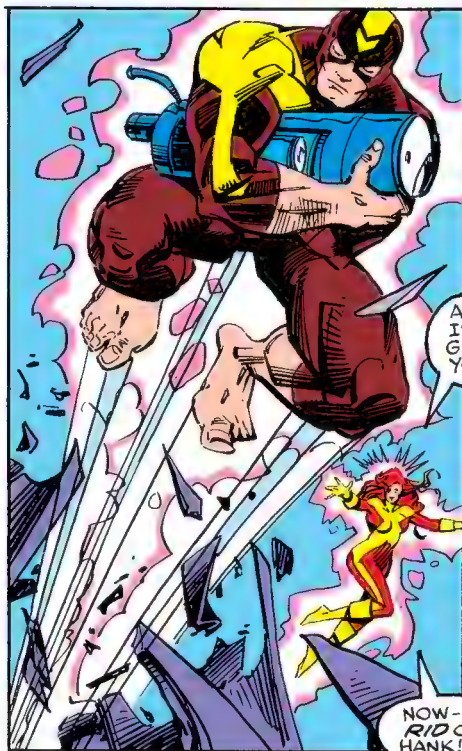
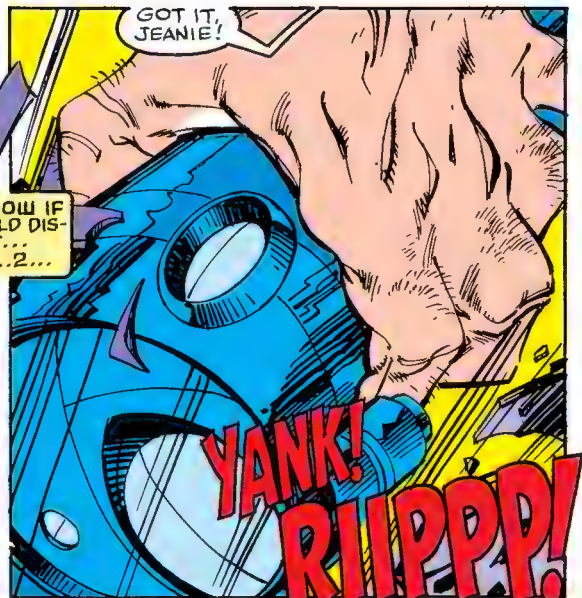
LOOK, IT'S FIXING ITSELF!

APOCALYPSE AGAIN. I'M AFRAID I HAVE NOT YET GAINED TOTAL CONTROL... 4... I APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE...

DON'T SWEAT IT, LET'S SEE IT FIX ITSELF AT 100 DEGREES BELOW! WHAT NOW?

THE BOMB IS INSIDE AND MAY BE DIFFICULT TO DISLODGE...3...

LOWER BEAST IN, JEAN. BUT BE CAREFUL. IF HE TOUCHES THE METAL IT'LL PULL OFF HIS SKIN.



A SHORT CONVERSATION
WITH AN APOLOGETIC
SHIP LATER...

RUSTY!
KIDS! ARE
YOU *IN*
THERE?
CAN YOU
HEAR
ME?

LOOK,
SCOTT, ONE
OF ARTIE'S
PROJECTIONS.
THE KIDS ARE
IN THERE
ALL RIGHT.

AS I TOLD YOU,
UNFORTUNATELY,
THE DOOR HAS
BEEN SEALED
SHUT. PERHAPS
YOU MIGHT--?

SCOTT, I'M... SORRY
I SNAPPED AT YOU
EARLIER. YOU HAVE
EVERY RIGHT TO GO
LOOK FOR YOUR
SON... *ALONE*,
IF THAT'S YOUR
CHOICE.

YOU KIDS
GET BACK!
I'M GONNA
PUNCH MY
WAY IN!

IT'S GREAT,
ISN'T IT? ARTIE
CAN SEND HIS
PICTURE-MESSAGES
LONG DISTANCE
NOW. I GUESS WE'VE
DONE SOME GOOD,
AFTER ALL.

ZAPT!!

JEAN, X-FACTOR... WE'RE
...SELF-APPOINTED GUARDI-
ANS OF THE MUTANT RACE.
IT SEEMS... WRONG TO DI-
VERT ITS ENERGY FOR MY
PERSONAL NEEDS.

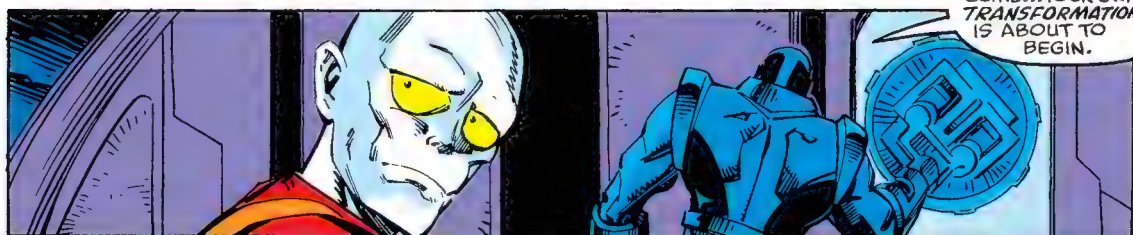
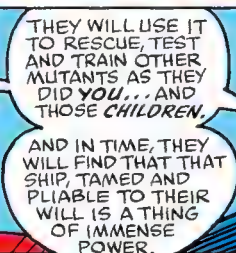
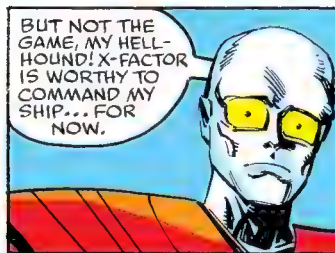
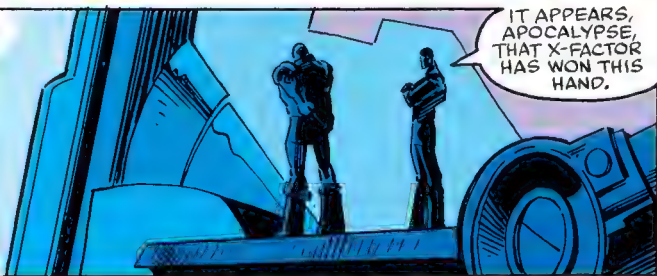
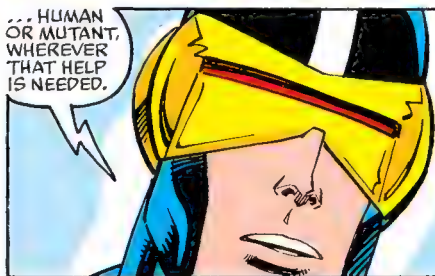
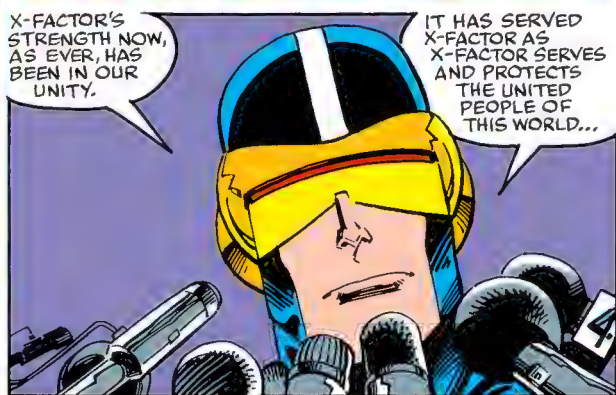
I KNOW, SCOTT,
BUT WE'RE ALSO
A FAMILY. DON'T
YOU *FEEL* IT?

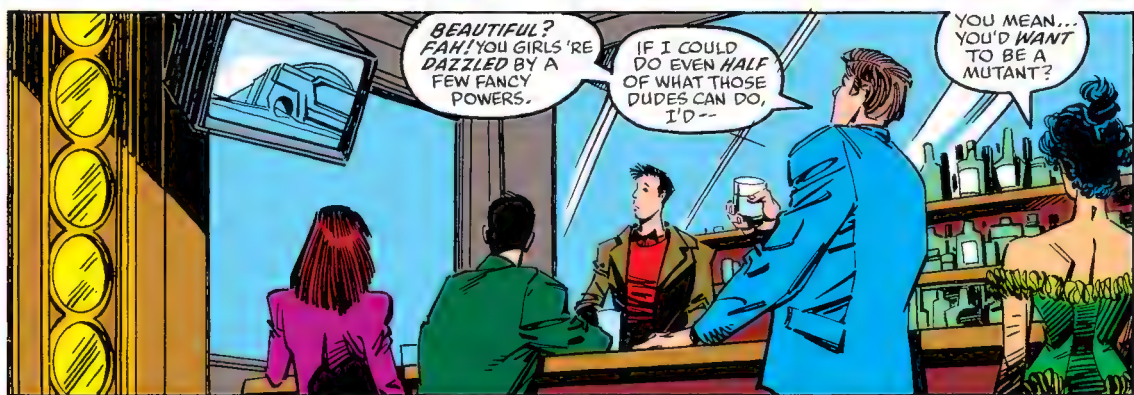
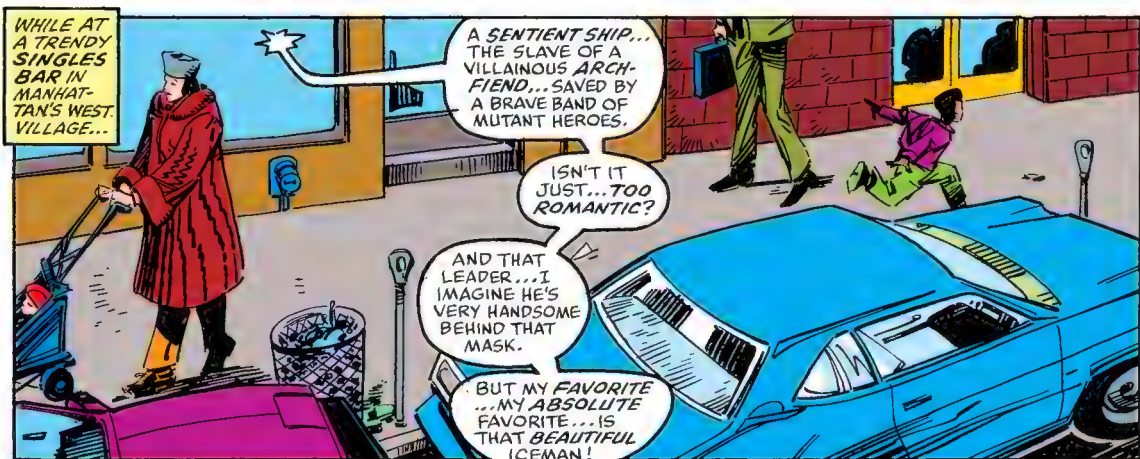
I... FEEL IT. AND...
YOU KNOW... I'VE
NEVER BEEN MUCH
GOOD AT FAMILIES.

MAYBE
YOU'VE NEVER
GIVEN YOURSELF
A CHANCE.

I WOULD BE A PART OF YOUR FAMILY,
IF YOU WILL HAVE ME. I WILL BE *your*
HOME... AND WILL BE YOURS TO
COMMAND.

BUT NOW, I OBSERVE THAT THE
HUMANS HOVER ABOUT OUTSIDE...





NEXT: MEET INFECTIA...
A DEADLY LADY WITH A PASSION FOR UNUSUAL THINGS!!
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO BE ONE OF THEM!!

MARVEL

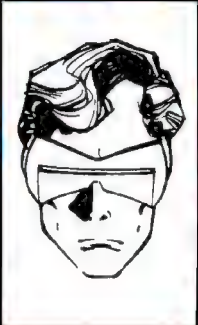


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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

X-FACTOR

WATCH OUT, WORLD!
ARE YOU READY FOR
INFECTIA
AND THE **ANTI-BODIES??**



1-12-83

Stan Lee presents

FAME!

HAROLD--
NO!

BUT, INFECTIA,
YOU MADE
ME INTO A
MUTANT.
DIDN'T
YOU...?

NO...
YOU'RE
NOT A
MUTANT. I
EXPLAINED
THAT TO
YOU!

YOU WEREN'T
BORN WITH AN
ALTERED GENETIC
STRUCTURE. I
ALTERED IT
FOR YOU...

WRITER
LOUISE SIMONSON

PENCILER
WALTER SIMONSON

INKER
BOB WIACEK

LETTERER
JOE ROSEN

COLORIST
PETRA SCOTESI

EDITOR
BOB HARRAS

EDITOR IN CHIEF
TOM DEFALCO



I KNOW THAT, INFECTIA, BUT YOU SAID *EXCEPT* FOR THAT, I'D BE LIKE A MUTANT. AND I WAS ONLY DOING...

...WHAT MUTANTS DO...

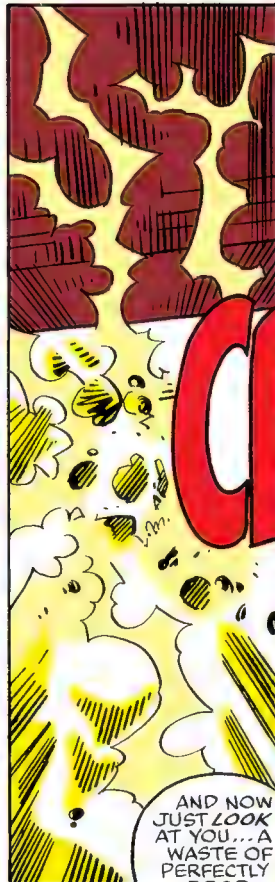
I TOLD YOU TO WAIT... NOT TO SQUANDER THE POWER I GAVE YOU 'TIL I GAVE THE WORD.



I KNOW THAT, INFECTIA, BUT YOU SAID *EXCEPT* FOR THAT, I'D BE LIKE A MUTANT. AND I WAS ONLY DOING...

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...WHAT MUTANTS DO...

I TOLD YOU TO WAIT... NOT TO SQUANDER THE POWER I GAVE YOU 'TIL I GAVE THE WORD.



...WHAT MUTANTS DO...

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...WHAT MUTANTS DO...

I TOLD YOU TO WAIT... NOT TO SQUANDER THE POWER I GAVE YOU 'TIL I GAVE THE WORD.



...WHAT MUTANTS DO...

I TOLD YOU TO WAIT... NOT TO SQUANDER THE POWER I GAVE YOU 'TIL I GAVE THE WORD.



HONESTLY... I DID TELL YOU IT WOULDN'T LAST FOREVER, HAROLD. I JUST DIDN'T TELL YOU THAT *YOU* WOULDN'T.

DARN--NOW I'LL HAVE TO GO TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF MAKING *ANOTHER* ONE.

WHY DOES EVERYBODY ALWAYS DO WHATEVER THEY *WANT* TO? WHY DOESN'T ANYBODY *EVER* THINK OF *ME*?

LATER, MERE BLOCKS AWAY,
REPORTERS CROWD ONTO A
RUN-DOWN MANHATTAN
PIER, EAGER TO HOLD AN
IMPROMPTU PRESS
CONFERENCE...

A FEW DAYS
AGO, YOUR
SHIP CAME TO
LIFE... BEGAN
FIGHTING
YOU...

A BOMB
IN ITS HULL
NEARLY DE-
STROYED THE
CITY!

WHAT GUARANTEES
CAN WE GIVE OUR
READERS THAT SOME-
THING LIKE THAT
WON'T HAPPEN
AGAIN?

IS IT TRUE THAT
THE CITY HAS
THREATENED
A SUIT FOR
DAMAGES?

HOW DO YOU
ANSWER PEOPLE
WHO SUGGEST THAT
X-FACTOR MEANS WELL,
BUT THAT YOU *MUTANTS*
HAVE CAUSED MORE
HARM THAN
GOOD?

WHY, WE TELL THEM THAT
YOU CAN'T BLAME X-FACTOR
FOR THE ACTIONS OF A
FEW EVIL *MUTANTS*...

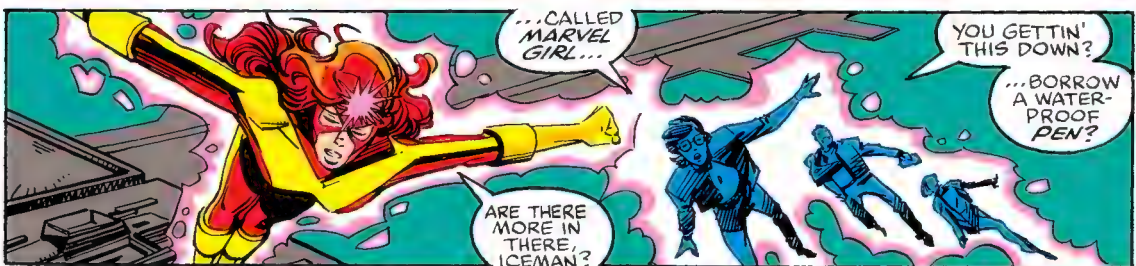
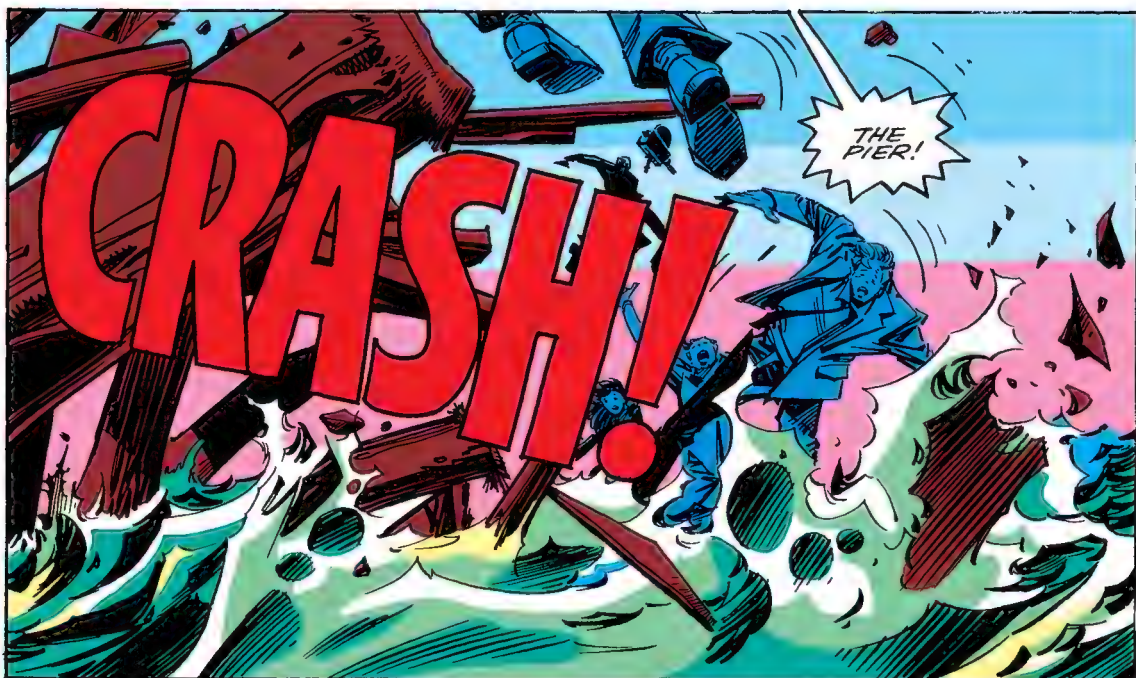
...JUST LIKE
NONE OF YOU
LAW-ABIDING
REPORTERS WOULD
WANT TO BE HELD
RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE ACTIONS OF
THE MAD SERIAL
SUBWAY-
SNIPER!

X-FACTOR'S MISSION IS TO
REFLECT THE *BROTHERHOOD
OF MAN* AND PROTECT BOTH
HUMANS AND *MUTANTS* FROM
HARM... WHATEVER THE SOURCE.

IF *PROTECTION'S*
YOUR GAME, WHY
HAVE *INSURANCE*
RATES SHOT SKY
HIGH ALL OVER
THE CITY...?

MY SOURCES SAY
THAT THEY WILL
CONTINUE TO RISE
AS LONG AS THAT
SHIP REMAINS HERE!

CREEAK!
SPLASH!

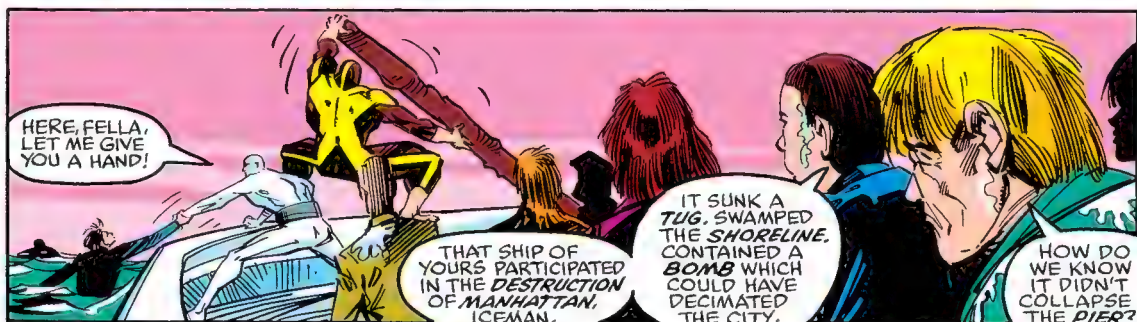




DON'T WORRY
-- WE CAN
HANDLE IT.
RIGHT, BEAST?

YEAH,
RIGHT...YOU
...UH...GOT
IT ALL
FINISHED
YET?

YEAH, PAL,
LAUNCH
AWAY!

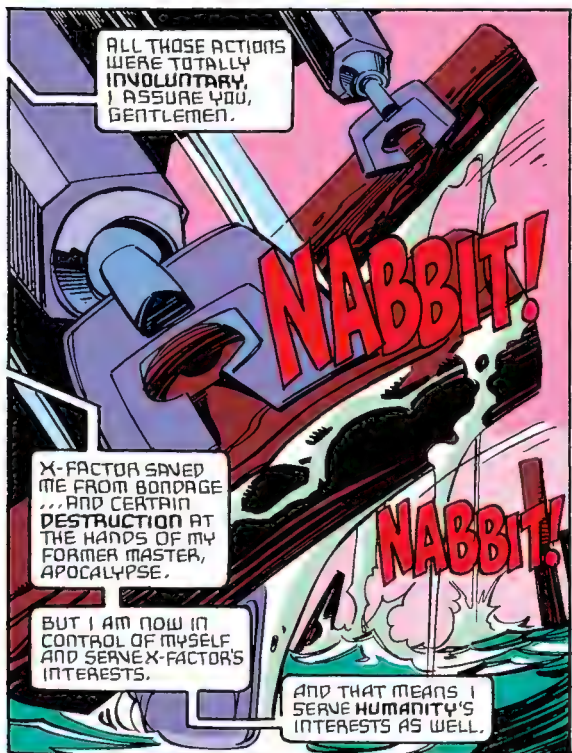


HERE, FELLA,
LET ME GIVE
YOU A HAND!

THAT SHIP OF
YOURS PARTICIPATED
IN THE DESTRUCTION
OF MANHATTAN,
ICEMAN.

IT SUNK A
TUG. SWAMPED
THE SHORELINE.
CONTAINED A
BOMB WHICH
COULD HAVE
DECIMATED
THE CITY.

HOW DO
WE KNOW
IT DIDN'T
COLLAPSE
THE PIER?

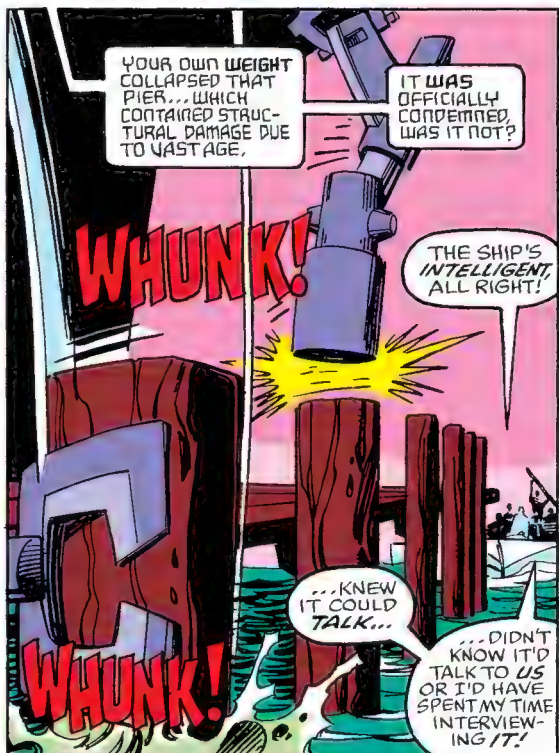


ALL THOSE ACTIONS
WERE TOTALLY
INVOLUNTARY,
I ASSURE YOU,
GENTLEMEN.

X-FACTOR SAVED
ME FROM BONDAGE
...AND CERTAIN
DESTRUCTION AT
THE HANDS OF MY
FORMER MASTER,
APOCALYPSE.

BUT I AM NOW IN
CONTROL OF MYSELF
AND SERVE X-FACTOR'S
INTERESTS.

AND THAT MEANS I
SERVE HUMANITY'S
INTERESTS AS WELL.



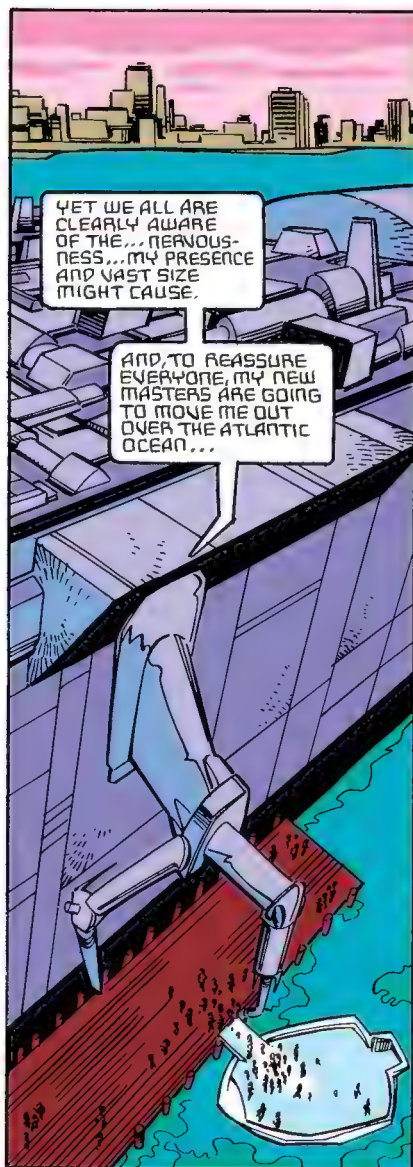
YOUR OWN WEIGHT
COLLAPSED THAT
PIER...WHICH
CONTAINED STRUC-
TURAL DAMAGE DUE
TO VAST AGE,

IT WAS
OFFICIALLY
CONDEMNED,
WAS IT NOT?

THE SHIP'S
INTELLIGENT,
ALL RIGHT!

...KNEW
IT COULD
TALK...

...DIDN'T
KNOW IT'D
TALK TO US
OR I'D HAVE
SPENT MY TIME
INTERVIEW-
ING IT!



YET WE ALL ARE CLEARLY AWARE OF THE...NERVOUSNESS...MY PRESENCE AND VAST SIZE MIGHT CAUSE.

AND, TO REASSURE EVERYONE, MY NEW MASTERS ARE GOING TO MOVE ME OUT OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...



...TO FREE THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT CITY FROM ANY CONCERN THAT MY PRESENCE HERE MIGHT PRESENT A DANGER.

NO, NOT YET.

THEY CAN'T MOVE IT YET.



THOSE MUTANTS'VE GOT MORE POWER THAN THE ELECTRIC COMPANY, HONEY. THEY CAN DO ANYTHING THEY WANT.

BUT TELL ME, SWEET, WHY WOULD A CUTE LITTLE THING LIKE YOU MIND IF THEY MOVED THAT SHIP OR NOT?

BECAUSE... I WANT IT! I...I NEED IT.



YOU NEED THAT BIG OLE SHIP? WHAT WOULD A CUTE LITTLE THING LIKE YOU WANT WITH A BIG OLE SHIP LIKE THAT?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAD ALL THOSE MUTANTS' POWER?



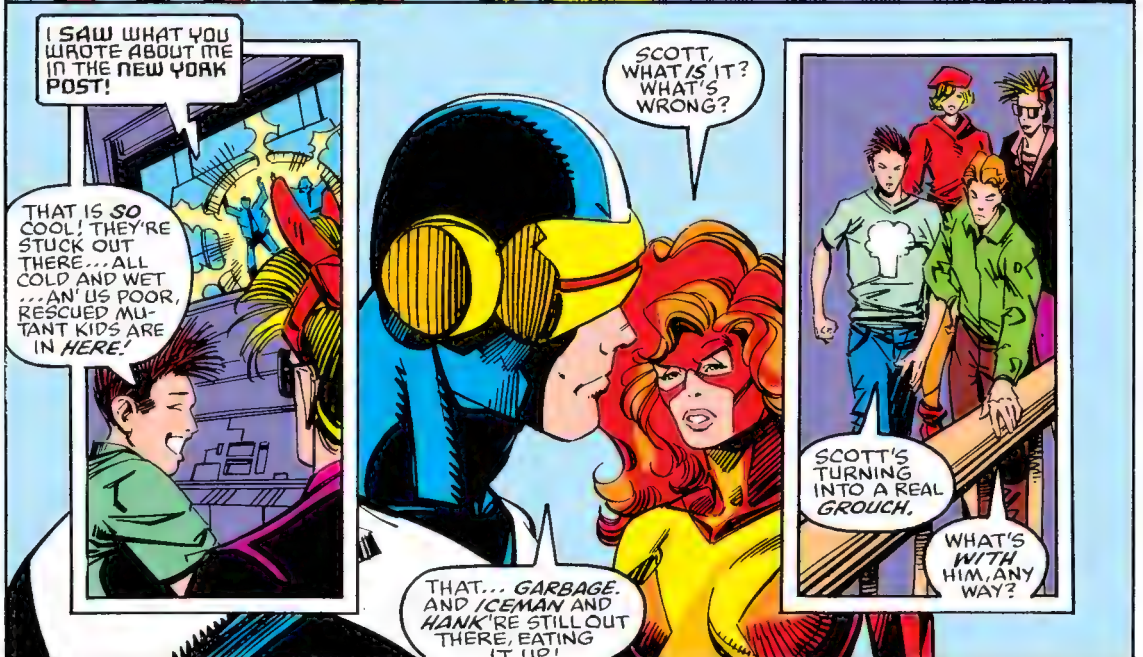
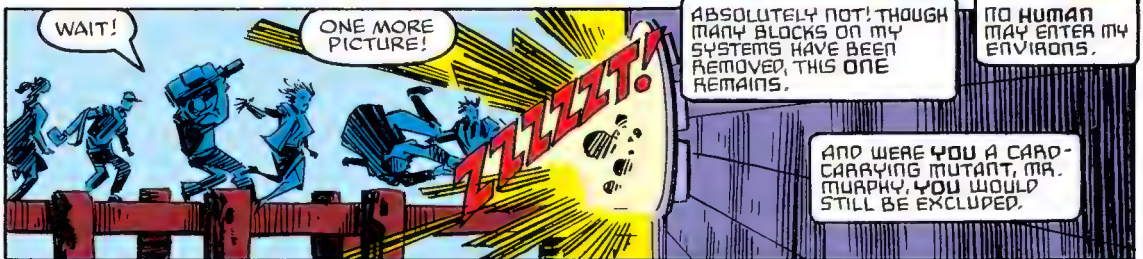
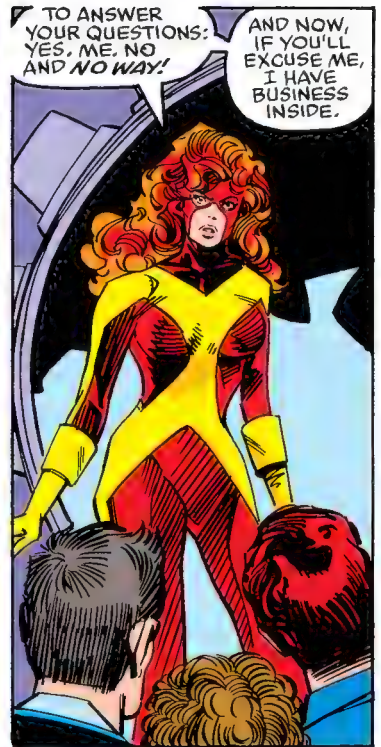
WHY, HONEY... IF I HAD THEIR POWER, I'D GO OUT THERE AND GET YOU THAT SHIP!

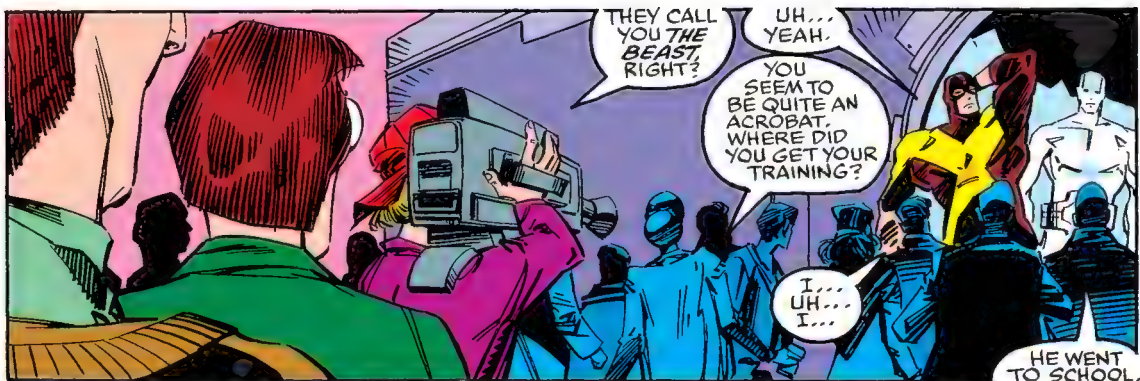
YOU'D GET THAT SHIP... FOR LITTLE ME? WHY... THAT'S THE NICEST THING ANYBODY'S SAID TO ME ALL DAY.



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME HOME WITH ME... SO WE CAN DISCUSS IT... IN PRIVATE...?

WHILE DOWNTOWN, AN INTERMINABLE PRESS CONFERENCE GRINDS TO A CLOSE...





THEY CALL YOU **THE BEAST**, RIGHT?

UH... YEAH.

YOU SEEM TO BE QUITE AN ACROBAT. WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR TRAINING?

I... UH... I...

HE WENT TO SCHOOL.



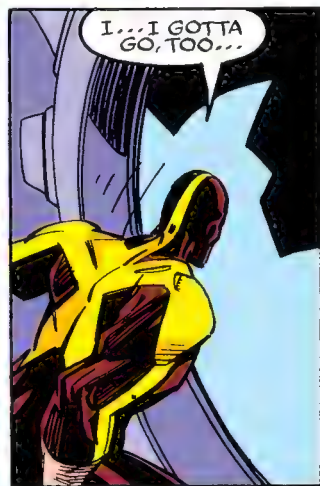
HOW **STRONG** ARE YOU? HOW MUCH WEIGHT CAN YOU PRESS?



UH... I... UH... DUNNO...



ICEMAN... ICEMAN'LL TELL YA...



I... I GOTTA GO, TOO...



BEAST...

HANK...?

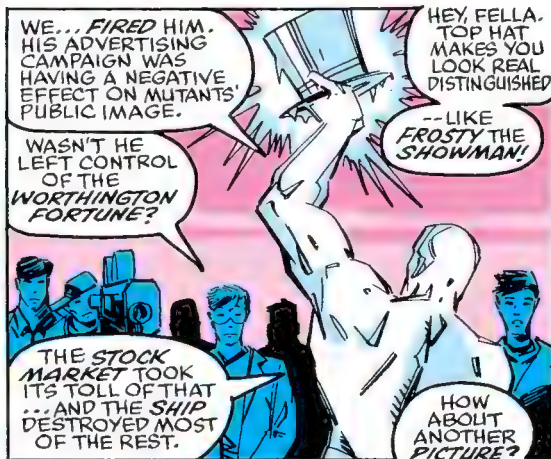
TRISH, NO. YOU SAID I WAS DUMB ON TV. YOU SAID I LOST MY MIND.

I DID... BUT YOU SHOULDN'T OUGHTA TOLE EVERYBODY.



SO THAT'S IT, HANK... I NEVER IDENTIFIED YOU. PLEASE... WE NEED TO TALK.

HEY, ICEMAN, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO X-FACTOR'S P. R. GUY, CAMERON HODGE?



WE... FIRED HIM. HIS ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN WAS HAVING A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON MUTANTS' PUBLIC IMAGE.

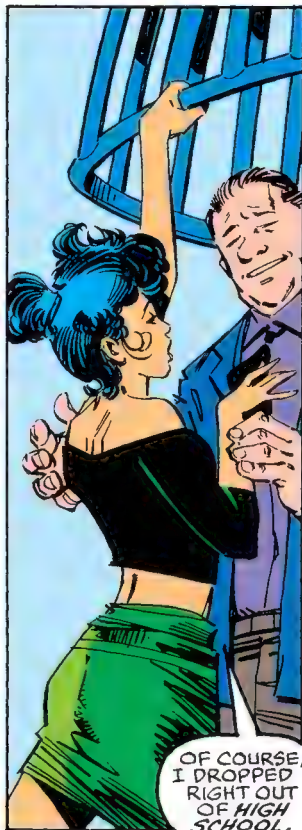
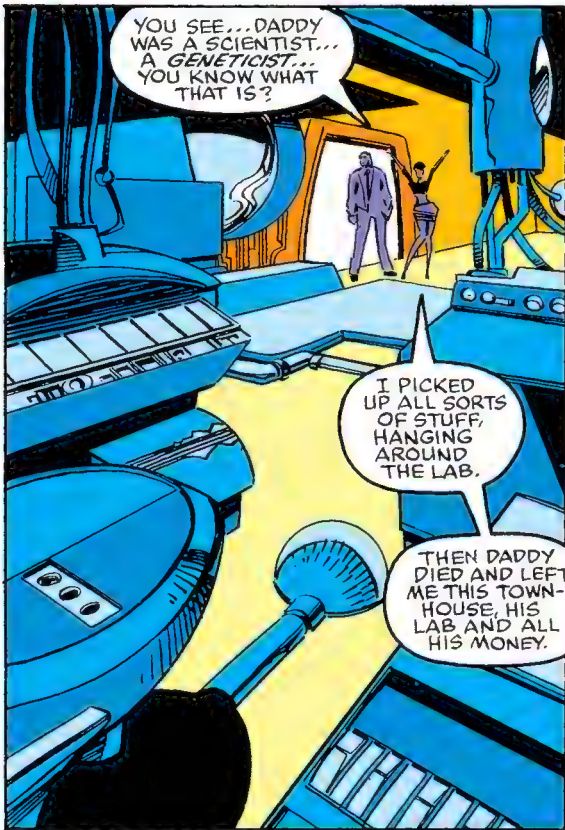
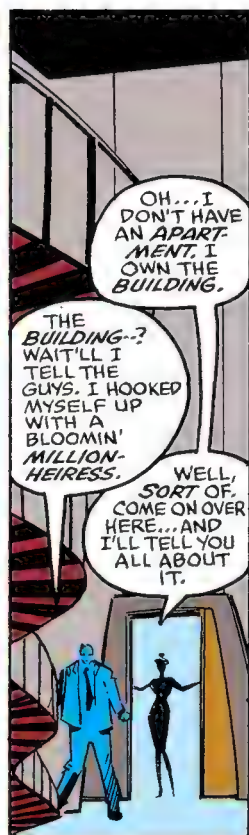
WASN'T HE LEFT CONTROL OF THE WORTHINGTON FORTUNE?

THE STOCK MARKET TOOK ITS TOLL OF THAT... AND THE SHIP DESTROYED MOST OF THE REST.

HEY, FELLA. TOP HAT MAKES YOU LOOK REAL DISTINGUISHED--

--LIKE FROSTY THE SHOWMAN!

HOW ABOUT ANOTHER PICTURE?



AND I WAS
REAL LUCKY.

L...
LUCKY--?

BABY, WHAT IS
THIS? WHAT'S
GOIN' ON?

MY BACK-
GROUND
MADE ME ABLE
TO UNDERSTAND
WHAT MY
POWER COULD
DO...

...WHAT
SEEING AND
BEING ABLE
TO ALTER
THINGS ON A
MOLECULAR
LEVEL COULD
MEAN...

P-POWER?
WHY'D THIS
HAFTA HAPPEN
TO ME? WHY
DO I MEET
ALL THE KINKY
MILLIONAIRESS
MANIACS...

HEY...
I'M NOT
KINKY!

COME
HERE,

LET ME
SHOW YOU
WHY THEY
CALL ME
INFECTIA..

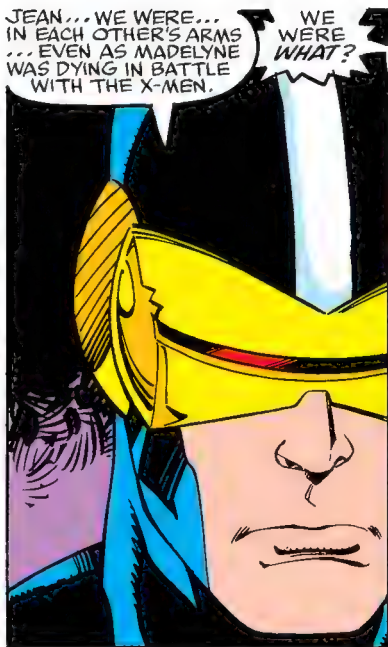
KISS
ME...

AARGH!

WHAT WAS
THAT? WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE TO
ME?

WHY... I
JUST GAVE YOU
WHAT YOU
WANTED... SO
YOU CAN GIVE
ME WHAT I
WANT.

HONESTLY...
WHY DID YOU THINK
I BROUGHT
YOU HERE?



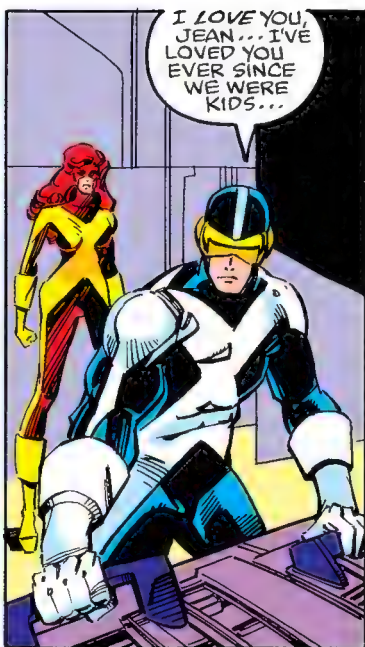
JEAN... WE WERE... IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS... EVEN AS MADELYNE WAS DYING IN BATTLE WITH THE X-MEN.

WE WERE WHAT?

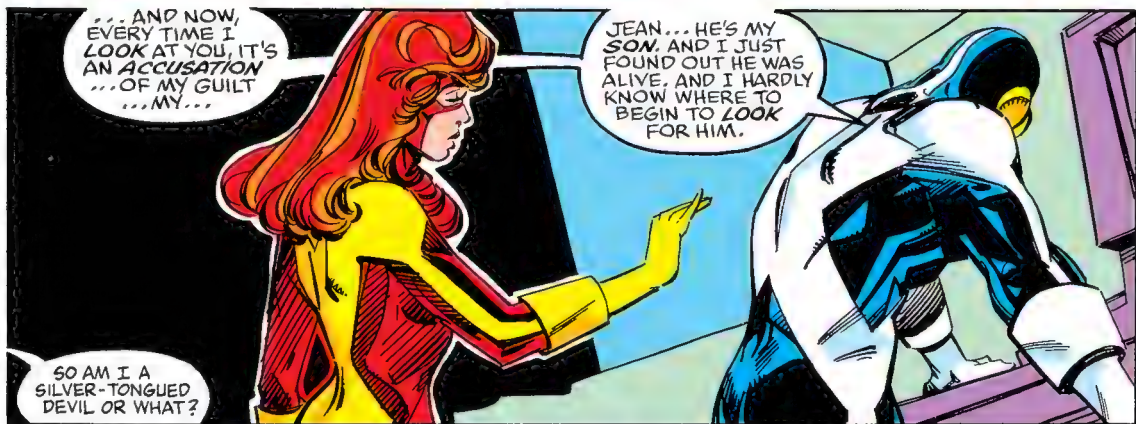


NO WAY. AT LEAST, NOT QUITE. AND, SCOTT YOU THOUGHT SHE WAS ALREADY DEAD, THAT SHE'D BEEN DEAD FOR MONTHS...

...AND SHE DID NOTHING TO DISABUSE YOU OF THE NOTION.



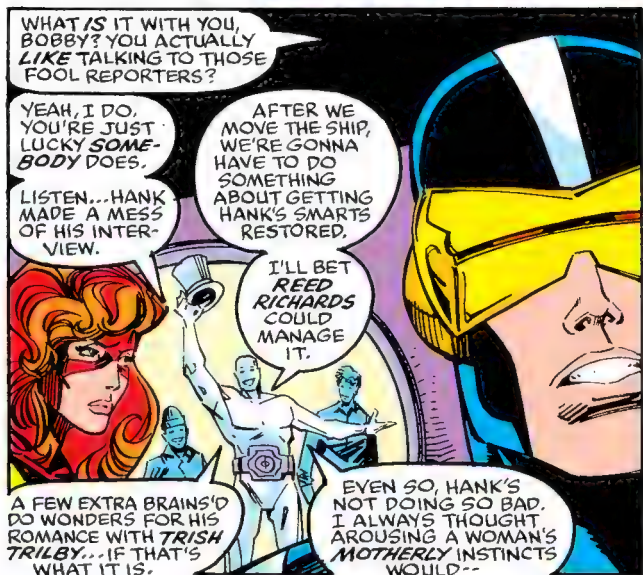
I LOVE YOU, JEAN... I'VE LOVED YOU EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS...



...AND NOW, EVERY TIME I LOOK AT YOU, IT'S AN ACCUSATION... OF MY GUILT... MY...

JEAN... HE'S MY SON. AND I JUST FOUND OUT HE WAS ALIVE. AND I HARDLY KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN TO LOOK FOR HIM.

SO AM I A SILVER-TONGUED DEVIL OR WHAT?



WHAT IS IT WITH YOU, BOBBY? YOU ACTUALLY LIKE TALKING TO THOSE FOOL REPORTERS?

YEAH, I DO. YOU'RE JUST LUCKY *SOME-BODY* DOES.

LISTEN... HANK MADE A MESS OF HIS INTERVIEW.

AFTER WE MOVE THE SHIP, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT GETTING HANK'S SMARTS RESTORED.

I'LL BET REED RICHARDS COULD MANAGE IT.

A FEW EXTRA BRAINS'D DO WONDERS FOR HIS ROMANCE WITH *TRISH TRILBY*... IF THAT'S WHAT IT IS.

EVEN SO, HANK'S NOT DOING SO BAD. I ALWAYS THOUGHT AROUSING A WOMAN'S MOTHERLY INSTINCTS WOULD--



OH SHUT UP!

SHIP AREN'T YOU READY TO MOVE YET? COME ON! LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!

WHILE ATOP A WAREHOUSE NOT FAR AWAY--

NOW, LISTEN... YOU ESPECIALLY, GREG. THE POWER I'VE GIVEN YOU MAKES YOU KING FOR A DAY.

IT'LL WEAR OFF... AND THE MORE YOU USE IT, THE FASTER IT GOES.

SO DON'T DO ANYTHING TILL I TELL YOU TO, OKAY, MIKE?

ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY OFF! THIS MIGHT GET DANGEROUS.

BEAST, YOU AND TRISH KEEP THOSE HOOLIGANS OUT OF TROUBLE, OKAY?

NO THANKS, BEAST. WE GOT RINGSIDE SEATS RIGHT HERE.

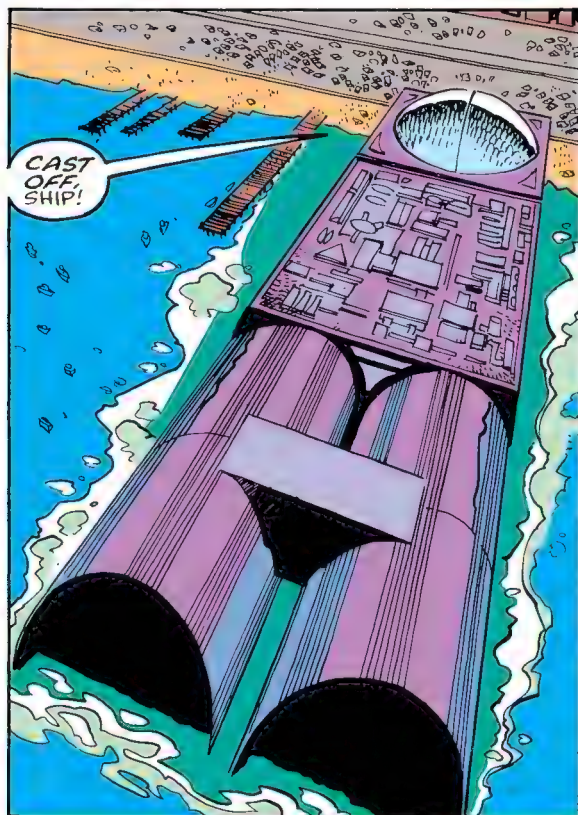
EVERYBODY'S ASHORE, CYKE!

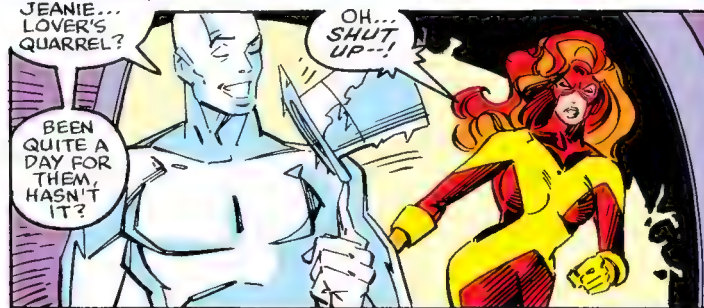
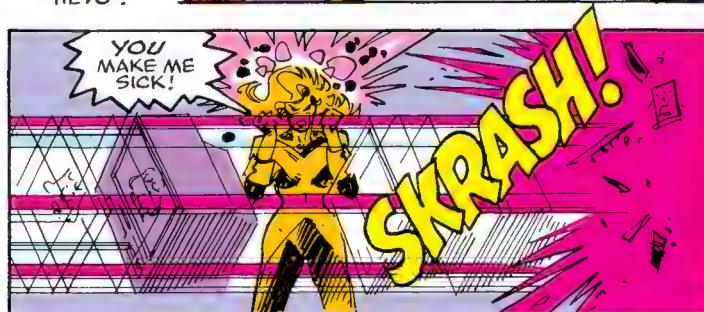
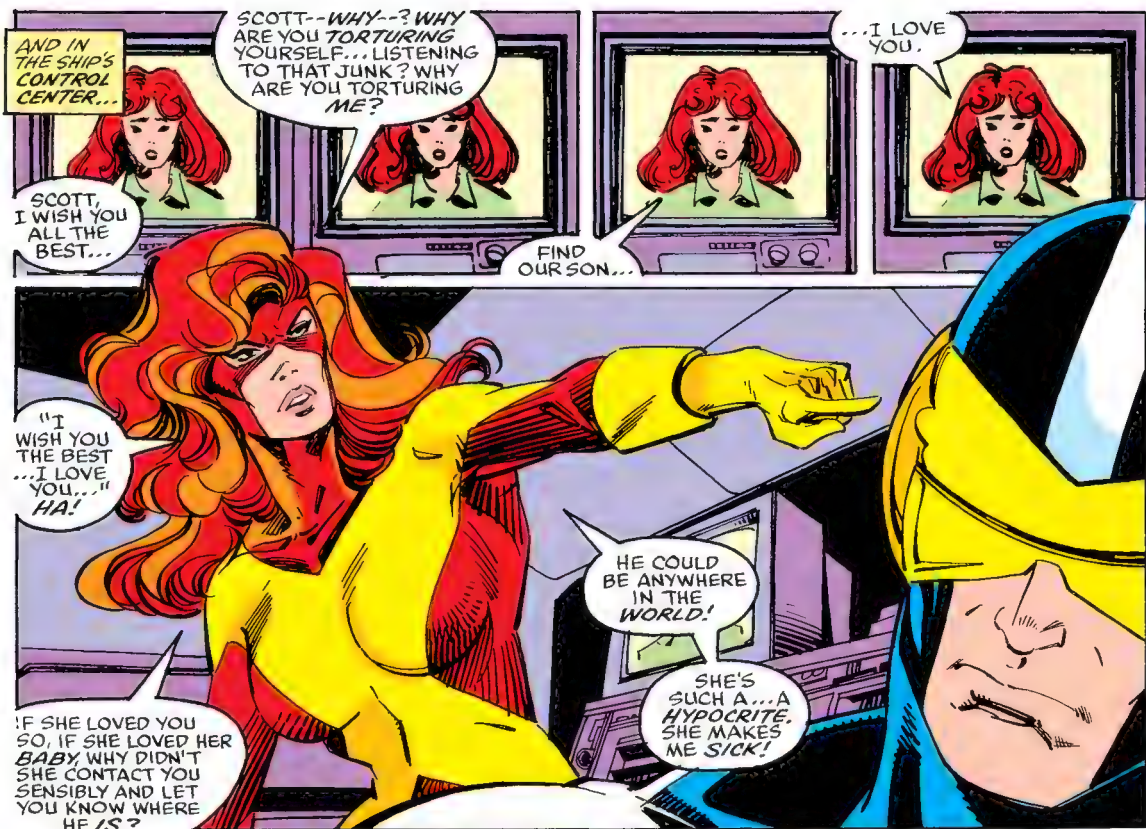
ALL RIGHT, RUSTY!

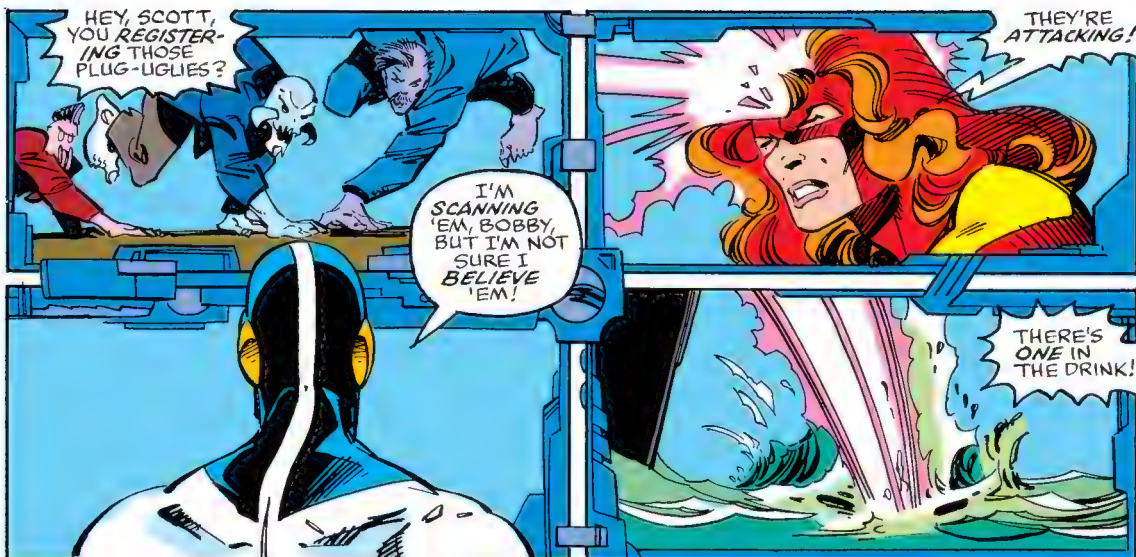
REMEMBER... YOU ALL PROMISED ME YOU'D GET ME THAT SHIP... I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO KEEP YOUR PROMISE. AFTER ALL, I KEPT MINE.

JUST REMEMBER... YOU WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE, SO MAKE EACH MOMENT COUNT!

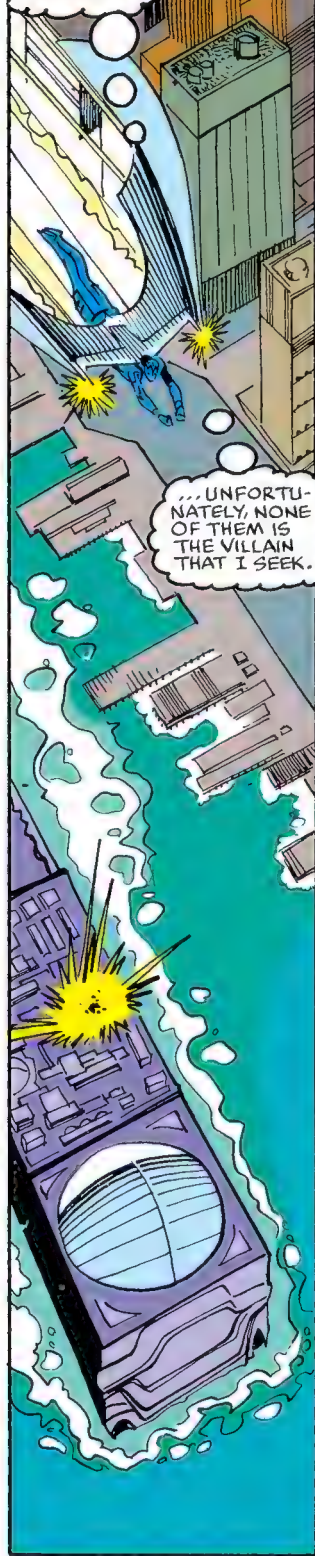
HEY, YOU KIDS, TRISH AN' ME'RE GOIN' HIGHER TA WATCH. YOU WANNA COME?





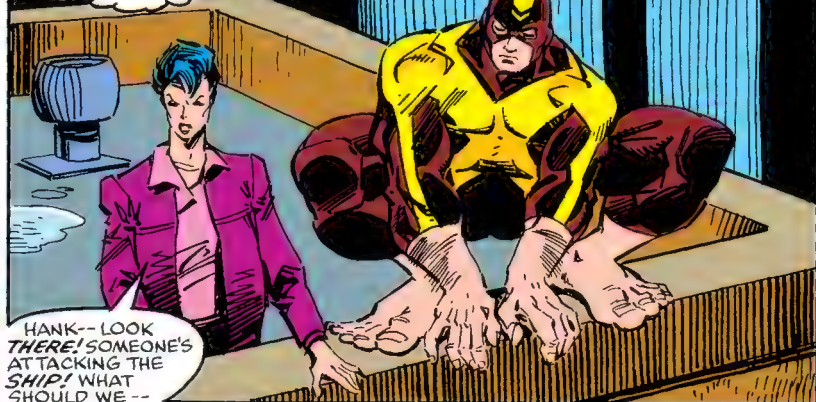


THE SHIP IS LEAVING THE HARBOR, NOW. ONCE AGAIN, X-FACTOR IS BESET BY VILLAINS...



...UNFORTUNATELY, NONE OF THEM IS THE VILLAIN THAT I SEEK.

THOUGH SHE MAY POINT THE WAY!



HANK-- LOOK THERE! SOMEONE'S AT TACKLING THE SHIP! WHAT SHOULD WE --



WHO--?

DEATH-- FOURTH HORSE-MAN OF APOCALYPSE.



WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

INFORMATION.

CANDY SOUTHERN CONTACTED YOU CONCERNING THE RIGHT AND CAMERON HODGE.



WHAT DID SHE TELL YOU?

NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! YOU'RE ONE OF THE HORSE-MEN. YOU HELPED DECIMATE MANHATTAN.

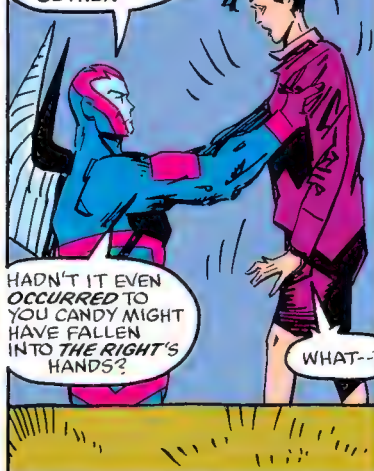
TELL ME!

THERE'S...NOTHING TO TELL, SHE SAID SHE'D LEARNED THAT HODGE WAS LINKED WITH AN UN-NAMED ANTI-MUTANT ORGANIZATION.



SHE KNEW MORE. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET... THEN I GOT WORD THAT SHE'D GONE OUT OF TOWN.

YOU'RE SO GOOD AT PUTTING TWO AND TWO TO-GETHER--

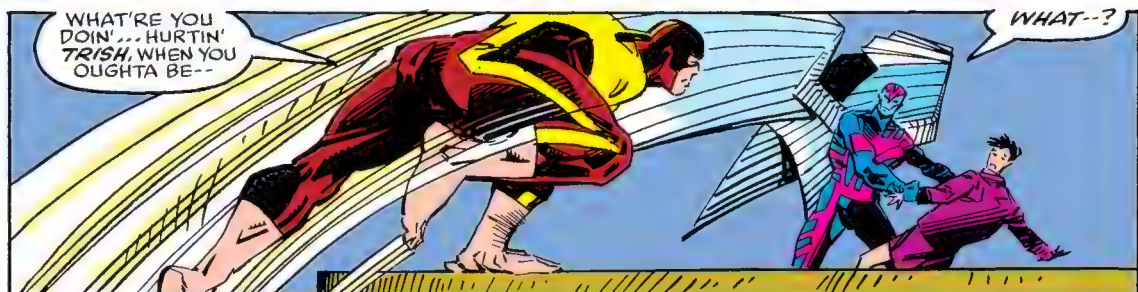


HADN'T IT EVEN OCCURRED TO YOU CANDY MIGHT HAVE FALLEN INTO THE RIGHT'S HANDS?

WHAT--?

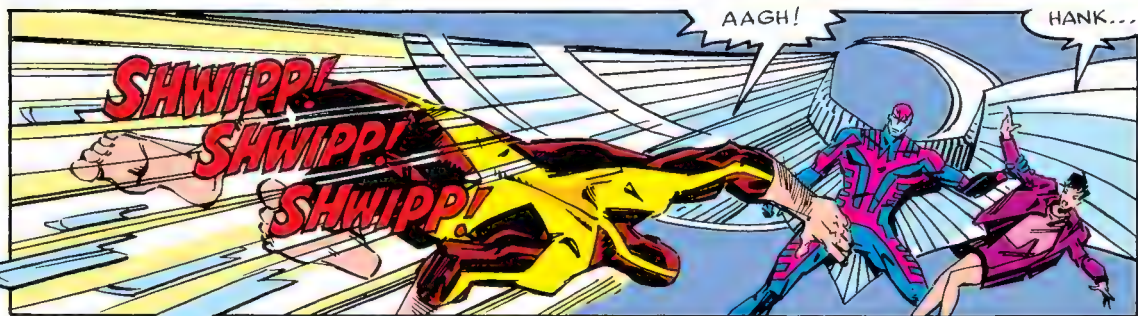


STOP!



WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'... HURTIN' TRISH, WHEN YOU OUGHTA BE--

WHAT--?



SHWIPP!
SHWIPP!
SHWIPP!

AAGH!

HANK...

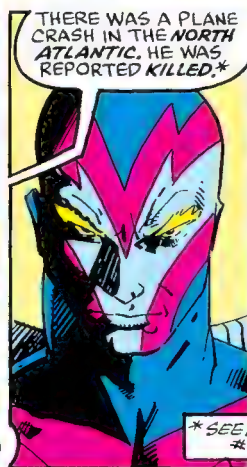


HE'S NOT MOVING! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM, YOU MONSTER?

S'OKAY, TRISH. POISON... ON WING KNIVES. ONLY... LITTLE CUT. OKAY... SOON.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW... IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO FIND OUT! JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE!

I FOLLOWED UP ON CAMERON HODGE.



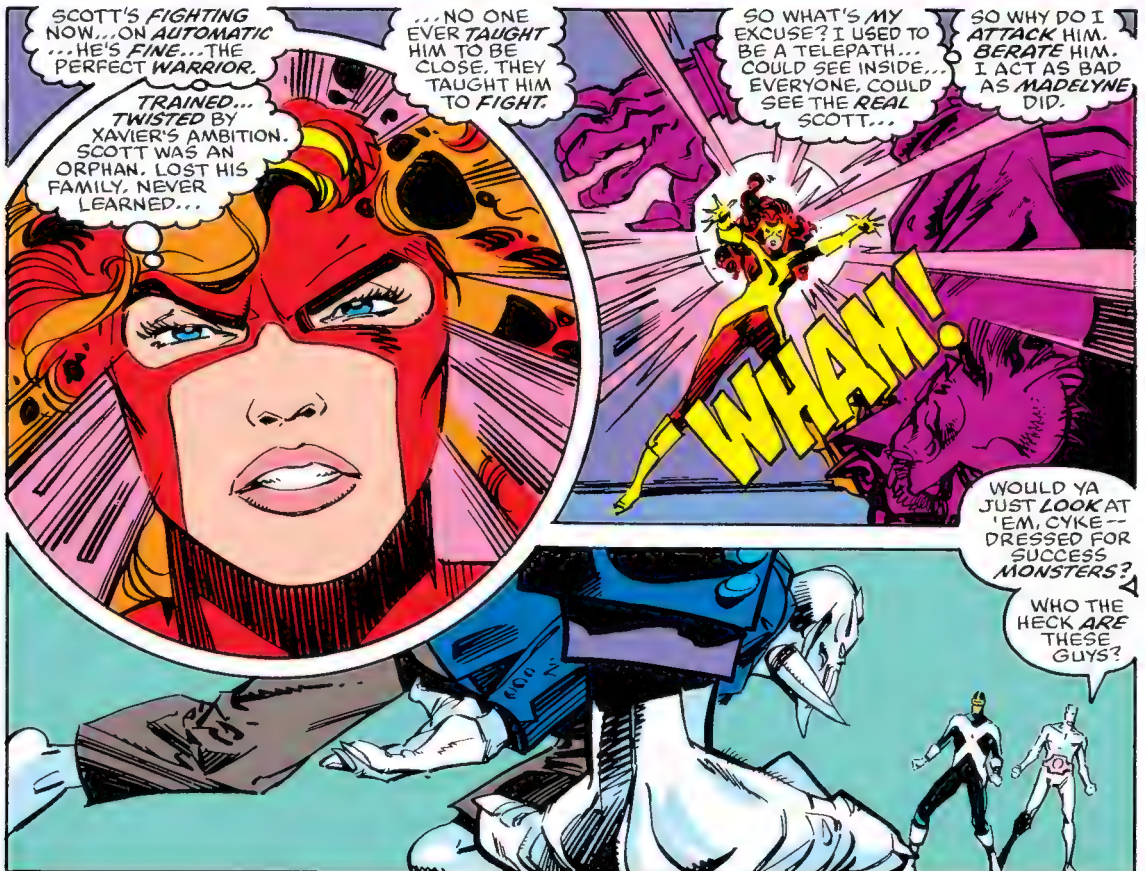
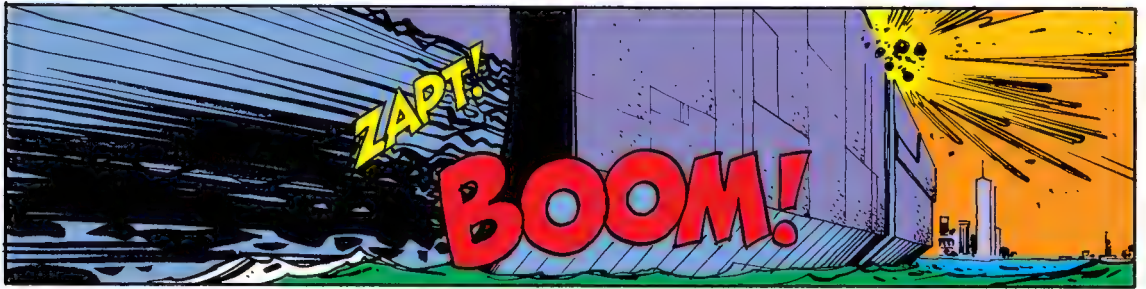
THERE WAS A PLANE CRASH IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC. HE WAS REPORTED KILLED.*

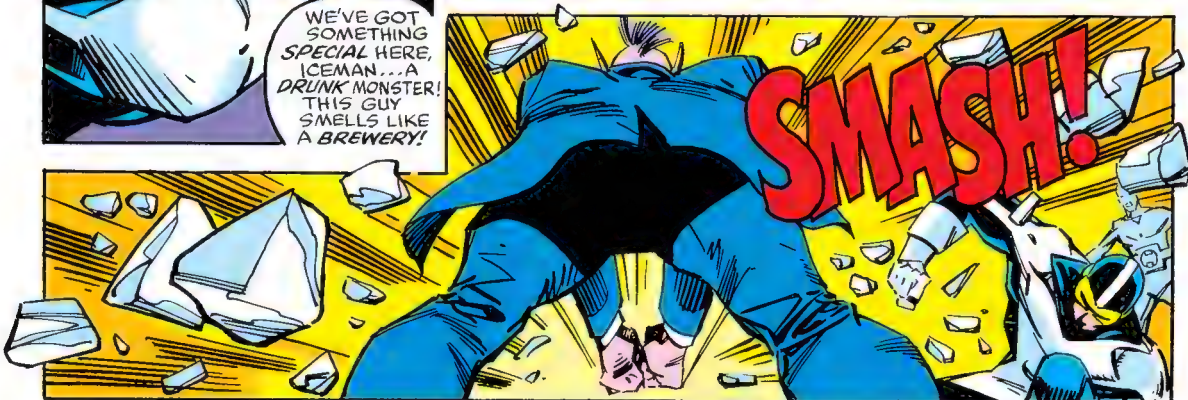


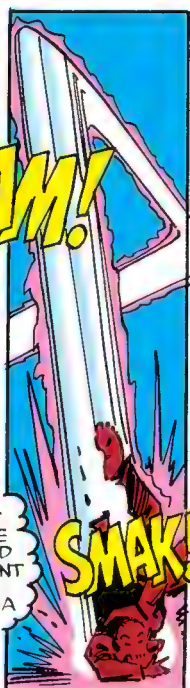
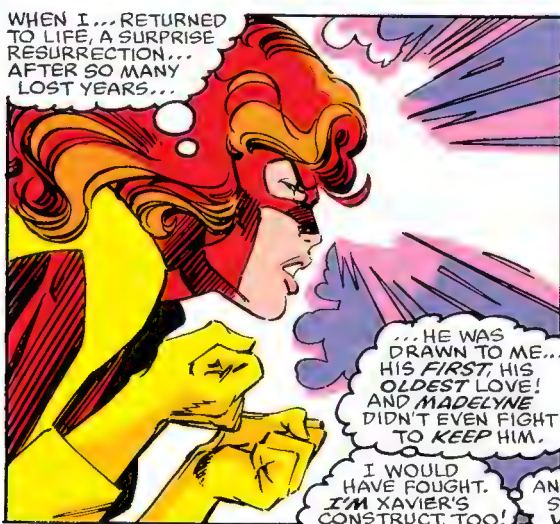
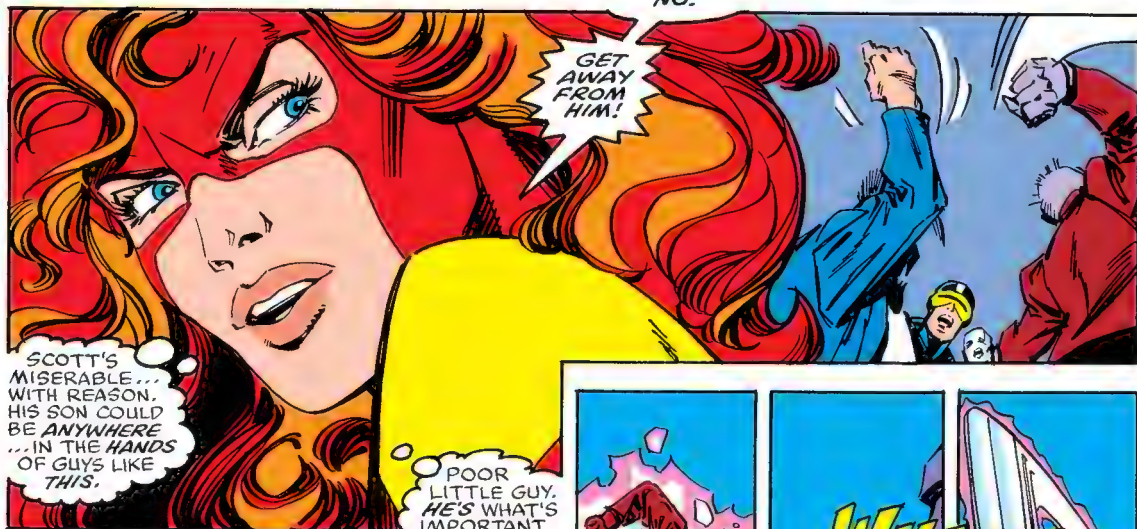
CRASHES CAN BE FAKED...

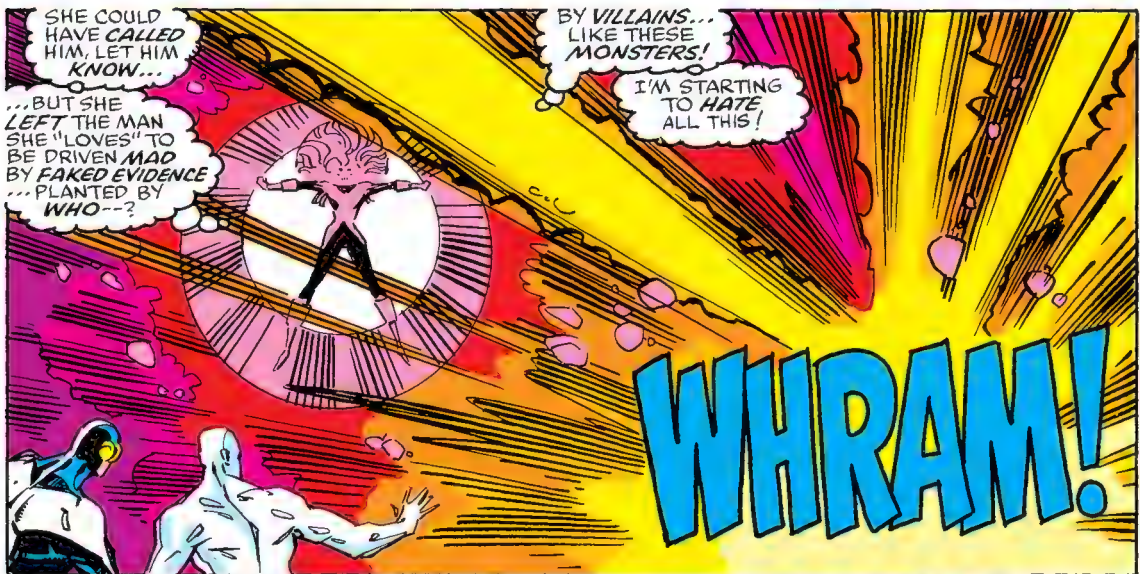
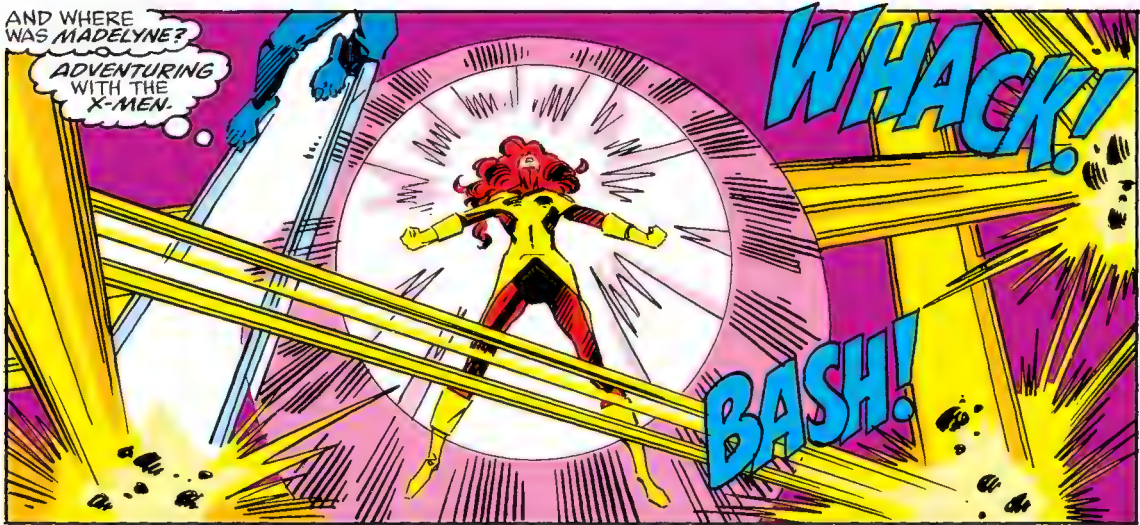
...THOUGH IT WOULD HAVE AN IRONIC SYMMETRY... WOULDN'T IT, MS. TRILBY?

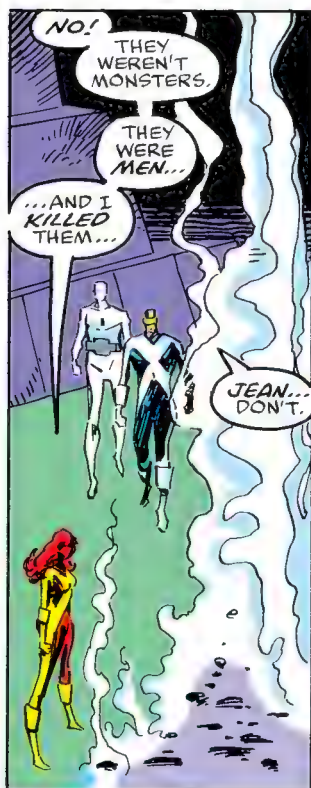
*SEE NEW MUTANTS #59, BOB.











NO! THEY WEREN'T MONSTERS. THEY WERE MEN... ...AND I KILLED THEM...

JEAN... DON'T.

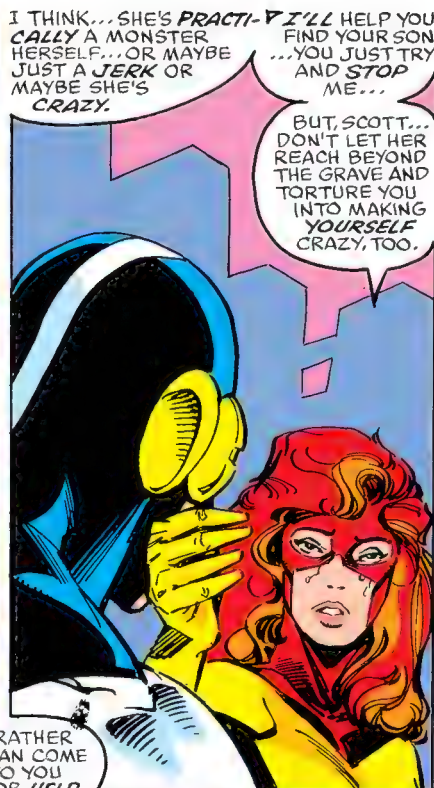


YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE! NORMAL PEOPLE DON'T DO ...ANY OF THAT. THEY WERE UNDER SOME KIND OF SPELL...OR--

SCOTT...!

SCOTT, YOU'RE A WONDERFUL MAN. THE BEST.

HOW CAN MADELYNE LET HER OWN BABY BE CARRIED OFF BY SOME MONSTER...TAKEN ANYWHERE... Δ

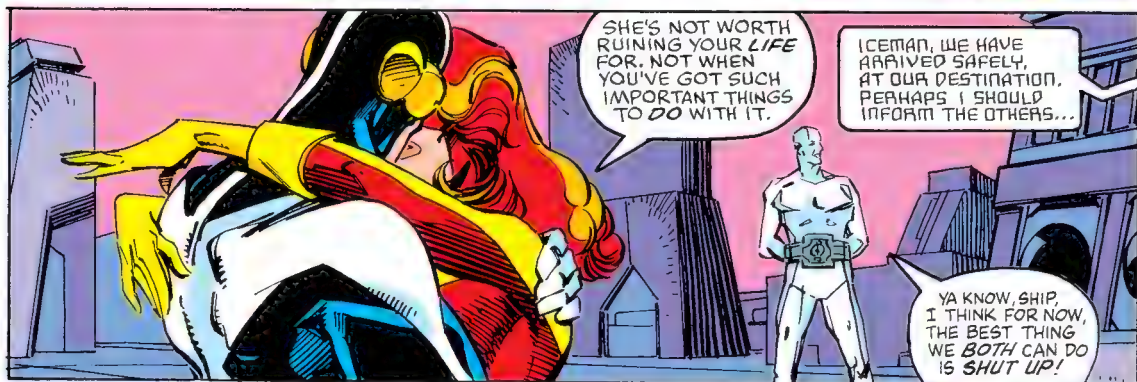


I THINK... SHE'S PRACTICALLY A MONSTER HERSELF...OR MAYBE JUST A JERK OR MAYBE SHE'S CRAZY.

I'LL HELP YOU FIND YOUR SON ...YOU JUST TRY AND STOP ME...

BUT, SCOTT... DON'T LET HER REACH BEYOND THE GRAVE AND TORTURE YOU INTO MAKING YOURSELF CRAZY, TOO.

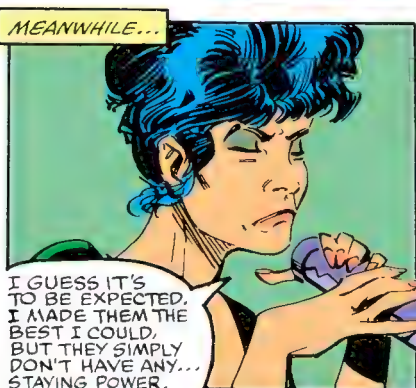
...RATHER THAN COME TO YOU FOR HELP.



SHE'S NOT WORTH RUINING YOUR LIFE FOR. NOT WHEN YOU'VE GOT SUCH IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO WITH IT.

ICEMAN, WE HAVE ARRIVED SAFELY, AT OUR DESTINATION. PERHAPS I SHOULD INFORM THE OTHERS...

YA KNOW, SHIP, I THINK FOR NOW, THE BEST THING WE BOTH CAN DO IS SHUT UP!



MEANWHILE...

I GUESS IT'S TO BE EXPECTED. I MADE THEM THE BEST I COULD, BUT THEY SIMPLY DON'T HAVE ANY... STAYING POWER.



IF I WANT THAT SHIP, I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO GET IT FOR MYSELF.

AND I KNOW JUST HOW I'LL DO IT.

NEXT: The DATING GAME or... KISS OF DEATH!
BE HERE IN 30!

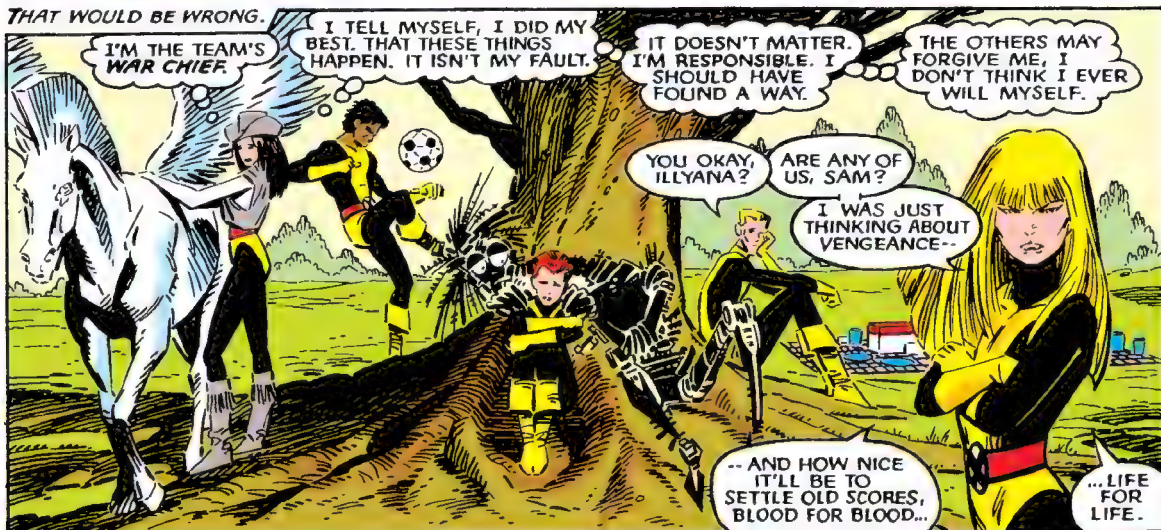
Marvel Age Annual #3 featured a one-page scene of the X-Men's loved ones mourning the team's seeming death.



NO VOICES STIR THE AIR, NO FEET CLATTER ON STAIRS--THE VENERABLE HUDSON VALLEY MANSION THAT HOUSES PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS IS GRIPPED WITH A SUPERNAL, SURREAL STILLNESS, A MOOD DIRECTLY AT ODDS WITH THE GLORY OF THE DAY--

--SO MUCH SO, ONE MIGHT ALMOST THINK IT DESERTED.

THAT WOULD BE WRONG.



I'M THE TEAM'S WAR CHIEF.

I TELL MYSELF, I DID MY BEST. THAT THESE THINGS HAPPEN. IT ISN'T MY FAULT.

IT DOESN'T MATTER. I'M RESPONSIBLE. I SHOULD HAVE FOUND A WAY.

THE OTHERS MAY FORGIVE ME, I DON'T THINK I EVER WILL MYSELF.

YOU OKAY, ILLYANA?

ARE ANY OF US, SAM?

I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT VENGEANCE--

-- AND HOW NICE IT'LL BE TO SETTLE OLD SCORES, BLOOD FOR BLOOD...

...LIFE FOR LIFE.



AN OCEAN TO THE EAST, ON MUIR ISLE, THE MOOD IS NO LESS BLEAK...

... AS KITTY PRYDE STARES INTO THE SETTING SUN AND WISHES THAT HER HEART COULD TRULY BREAK.

BETTER ETERNAL OBLIVION...

...THAN THIS AWFUL, RAVENING HOLLOWNESS WITHIN HER BREAST.



IT ISN'T FAIR, NIGHTCRAWLER!

AFTER ALL THE X-MEN HAVE DONE-- TO HAVE THINGS END LIKE THIS, IT'S MORE THAN I CAN BEAR!

BUT BEAR THIS LOSS WE SHALL, SHADOWCAT.

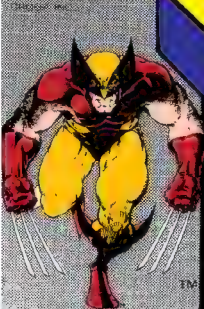
BECAUSE TO BREAK WOULD BE TO GIVE OUR ENEMIES THE FINAL VICTORY--

-- AND THAT, I SHALL NEVER DO!

COLORIST: Gregory Wright | LETTERER: Tom Orzechowski
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Dwight Zimmerman | EDITOR: Jim Salicrup

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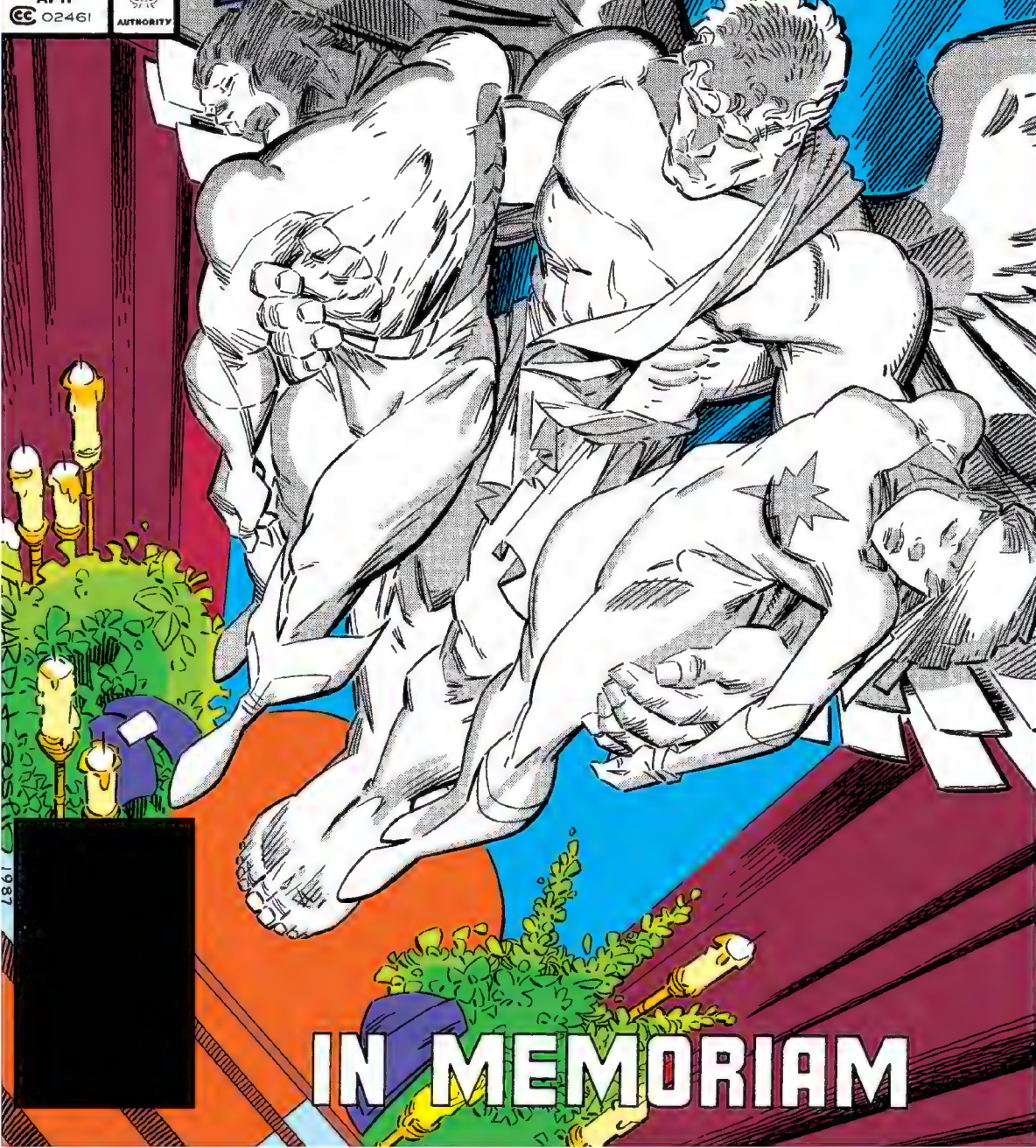
APPROVED
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COMICS
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AUTHORITY

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN



IN MEMORIAM



1987

STAN LEE PRESENTS

DEADLY GAMES!

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SCRIPTER
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GUEST PENCILER
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TOM ORZECZOWSKI
LETTERER
ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO
GUEST PLOTTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

LOS ANGELES,
CALIFORNIA...

...3 A.M...

X-MEN

Dear O.Z.,
Writing on the run, in every sense of the word! Yesterday, Scotland; tomorrow, across the Universe!

The X-Men's current hide-out made me think of you-- hence, this letter-- Alcatraz! Yup! The most notorious band of mutant outlaw heroes is using the derelict old federal prison as a temporary base. One of life's littler ironies, huh-- especially with those selfsame Feds scouring the country for us. As though we were public enemies or something.

On the other hand, you're a bounty hunter. Your job's catching people like us.

But you're also my friend. So believe me-- please-- when I tell you, the X-Men may be wanted, but we're not criminals.

Same as you weren't. That time not so long ago in Florida. Remember?

GRUMPY

"IT'S NOT EASY BEING AN X-MAN, O.Z."

"YOU HAVE TO PRACTICE EVERY DAY--"

"--FIRST LEARNING THE VARIOUS USES AND LIMITS OF YOUR POWER, JUST SO YOU DON'T INADVERTENTLY BECOME A DANGER TO EVERYONE AROUND YOU (AND GIVE MUTANTS A WORSE NAME THAN WE ALREADY HAVE, IF THAT'S EVEN POSSIBLE!)..."

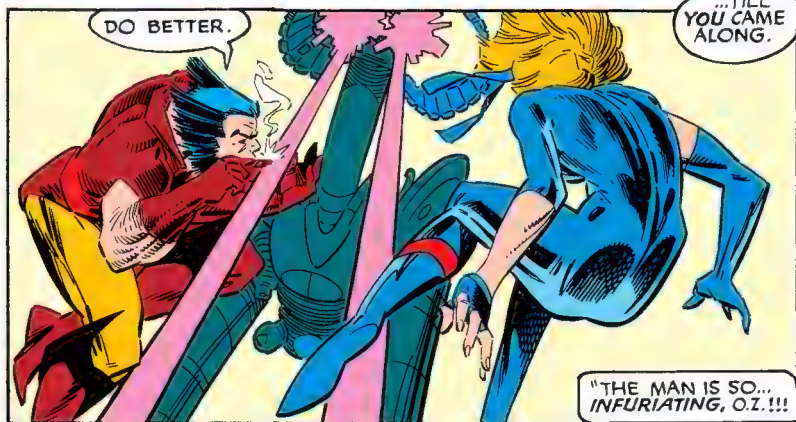
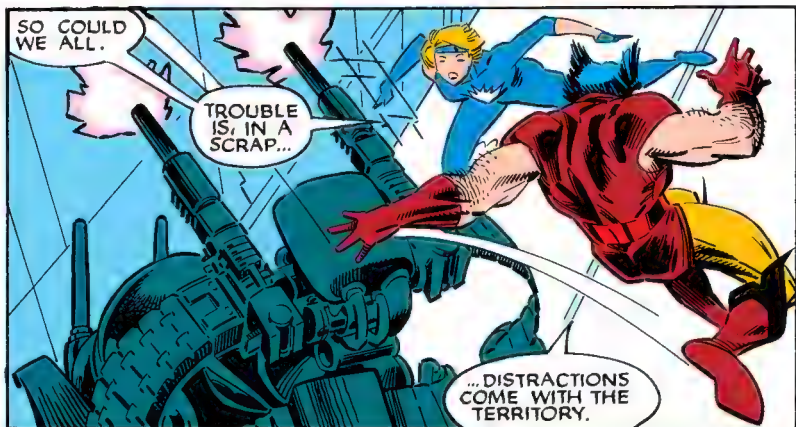
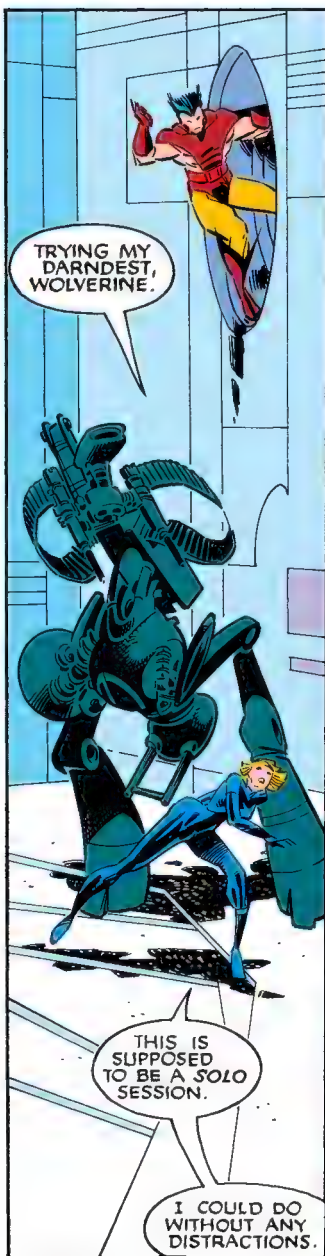
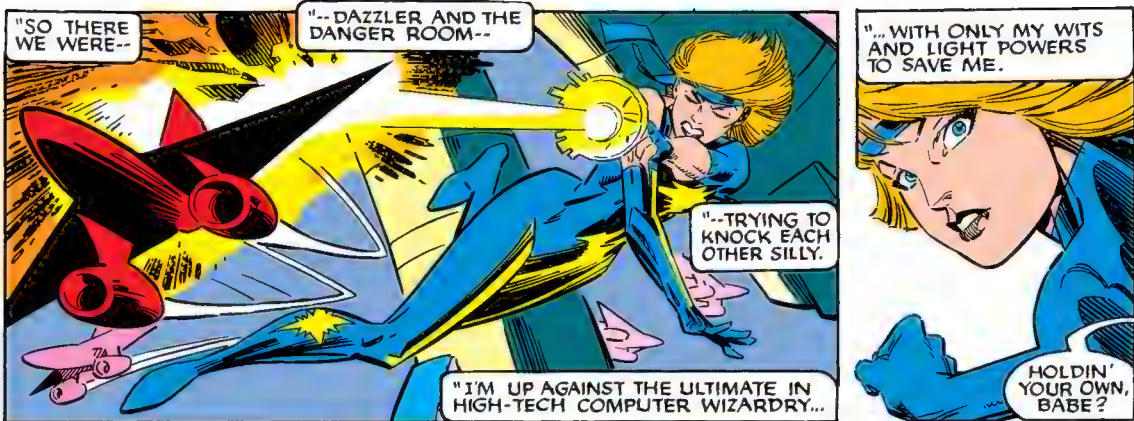
"...AND THEN HONING THAT KNOWLEDGE, PLUS A WHOLE RACK-FULL OF OTHER NASTY SKILLS, SO YOU CAN FIGHT."

"THERE'S A SPECIAL PLACE-- IN THEIR HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX-- FOR ALL THIS, CALLED THE DANGER ROOM."

"APTLY NAMED."

"THE NAMES I'D CALL IT, I WON'T EVEN MENTION IN THIS LETTER. SUFFICE IT TO SAY, GIVEN THE CHANCE, I'D CHEERFULLY BLOW IT TO KINGDOM COME."

"IF IT DOESN'T NAIL ME FIRST."



"IT'S LIKE, IF HE CUTS ME AN INCH OF SLACK..."

"...THE WORLD'LL COME TO AN END, OR SOMETHING!"

HEADS UP, DAZZ!

MICRO-JETS--

--WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?!

"DARN ROOM. FOREVER BLINDSIDING YOU WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT."

"I TRIED TO KNOCK THEM OUT OF THE AIR WITH MY SOLID LIGHT PHOTON BOLTS..."

"...BUT NOTHING HAPPENED!"

"MY ENERGY RESERVOIR HAD DROPPED..."

"...TOO LOW TO GENERATE THEM."

WOLVERINE, HELP!

CUT ME LOOSE!!

TOO LATE, SONG-BIRD.

Oh!

"DARN THE MAN!"

spin! BANG!

YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO STAND ON YOUR OWN FIRST.

I THOUGHT WE WERE TEAMMATES!

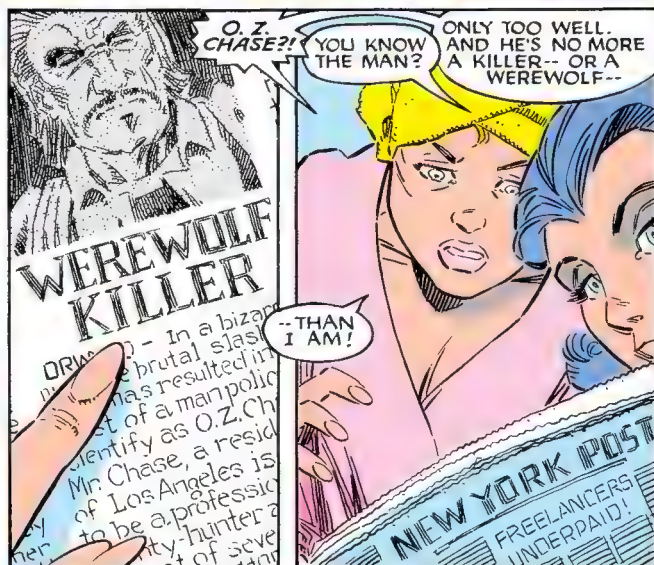
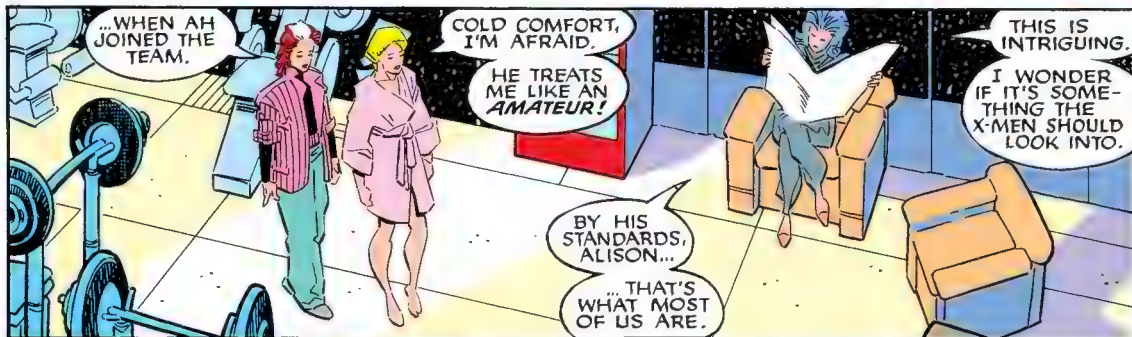
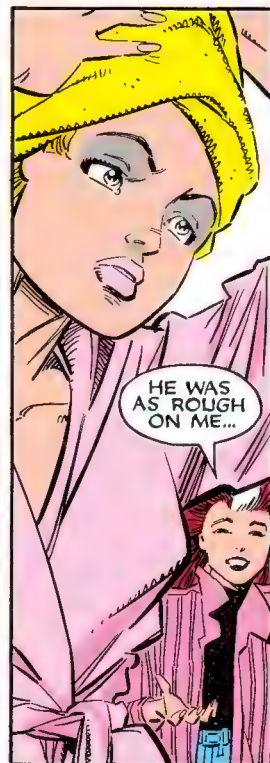
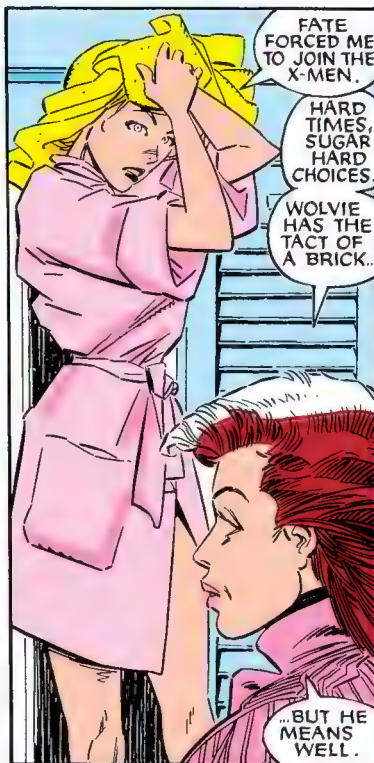
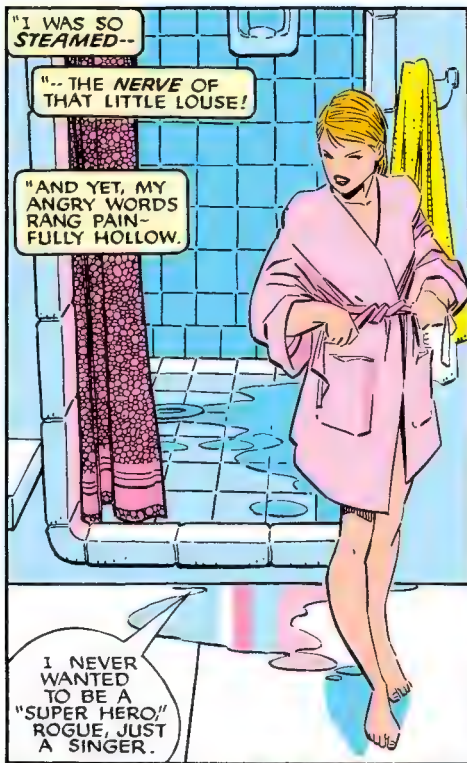
WHY DIDN'T YOU LEND A HAND?!

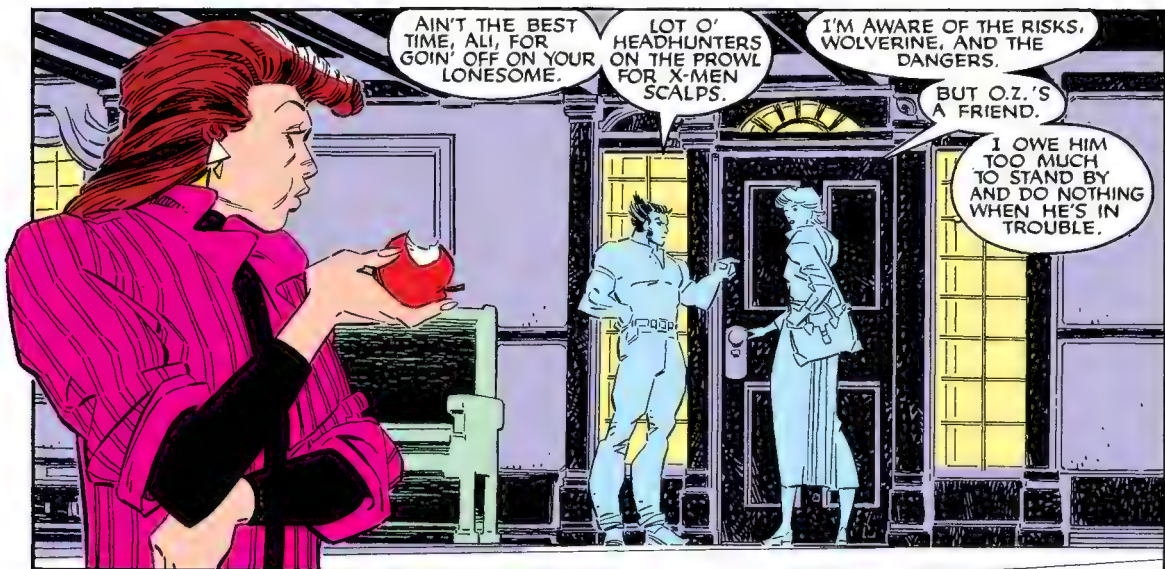
OTHERWISE, YOU'LL REMAIN A LIABILITY THE X-MEN CAN'T AFFORD.

WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH... ...FOR THAT VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.

I WAS A SOLO ACT LONG BEFORE I JOINED THIS TURKEY GROUP.

AND, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I WAS A STAR!





AIN'T THE BEST TIME, ALI, FOR GOIN' OFF ON YOUR LONESOME.

LOT O' HEADHUNTERS ON THE PROWL FOR X-MEN SCALPS.

I'M AWARE OF THE RISKS, WOLVERINE, AND THE DANGERS.

BUT O.Z.'S A FRIEND.

I OWE HIM TOO MUCH TO STAND BY AND DO NOTHING WHEN HE'S IN TROUBLE.

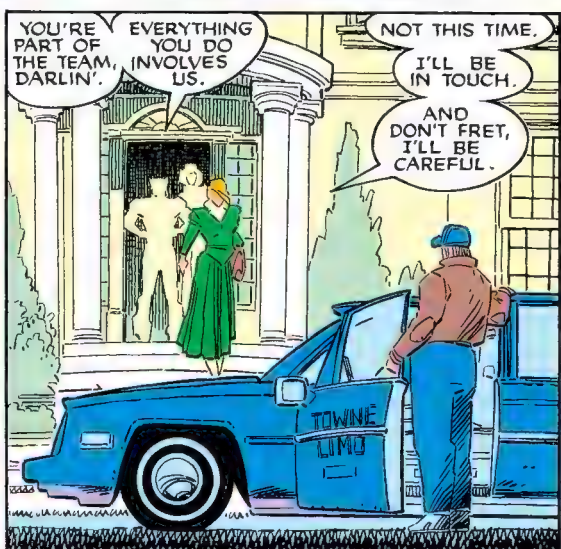


YOU'LL DO BETTER WITH A BACK-UP.

I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN...

... BUT THIS IS A PERSONAL AFFAIR.

IT DOESN'T INVOLVE THE X-MEN.

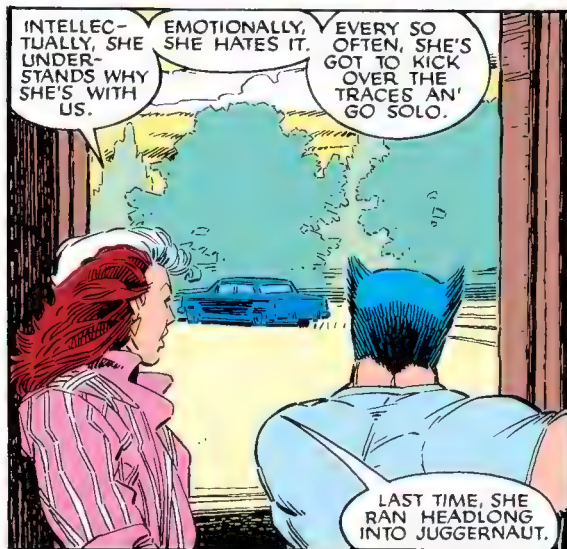


YOU'RE PART OF THE TEAM, DARLIN'.

EVERYTHING YOU DO INVOLVES US.

NOT THIS TIME. I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

AND DON'T FRET, I'LL BE CAREFUL.



INTELLECTUALLY, SHE UNDERSTANDS WHY SHE'S WITH US.

EMOTIONALLY, SHE HATES IT.

EVERY SO OFTEN, SHE'S GOT TO KICK OVER THE TRACES AN' GO SOLO.

LAST TIME, SHE RAN HEADLONG INTO JUGGERNAUT.



YOU'D FIGURE SHE'D HAVE LEARNED FROM THAT.

YUP.

SO, BOSS, WE GONNA LET HER JAUNT OFF LIKE THIS...

...OR WHAT?

PENTONVILLE,
FLORIDA--

--UP ON THE PANHANDLE,
NOT FAR FROM THE BAMA LINE--

WHAT
SMELLS SO
SINFULLY
GOOD,
MOTHER?

NEVER
YOU
MIND!

IS
THAT--
PIE
???

THOMAS, YOU KEEP
YOUR HANDS OFF!
IT'S BECKY'S FAVORITE,
TO CELEBRATE HER
COMING HOME FROM
WEST POINT!

LAND
SAKES,
WILL YOU
LOOK
AT THE
TIME!

GET YOURSELF
WASHED AND
CHANGED, YOU
OLD GOAT! HER
BUS IS DUE
IN AN HOUR!

CAN'T
I GO AS
I AM?

INTO TOWN,
TO MEET
YOUR
OFFICER
DAUGHTER?!

YOU MOST
CERTAINLY
CAN--
WHAT???

THOMAS--??!

THE
TRUCK
!?!

'SCUSE ME, FELLA!

FATHER,
YOU BE
CAREFUL.

OUTTA
THERE,
MISTER!

OR SO HELP ME...

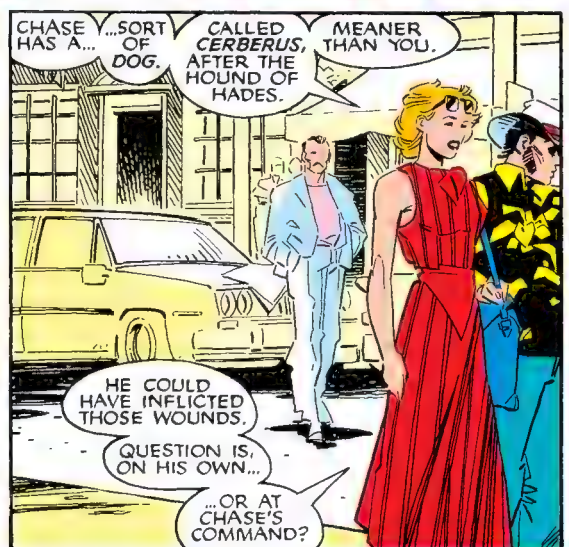
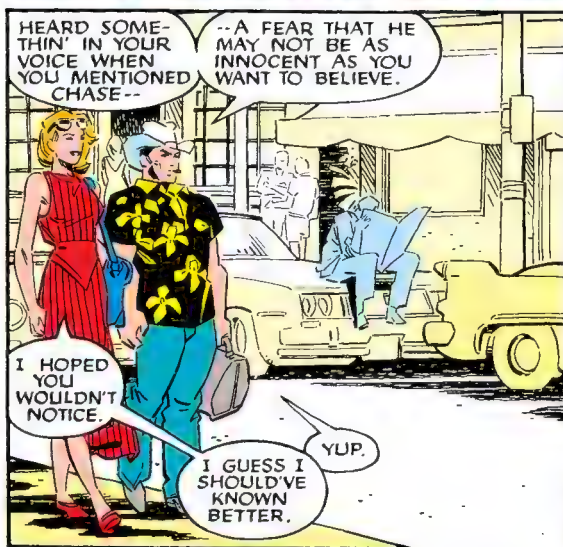
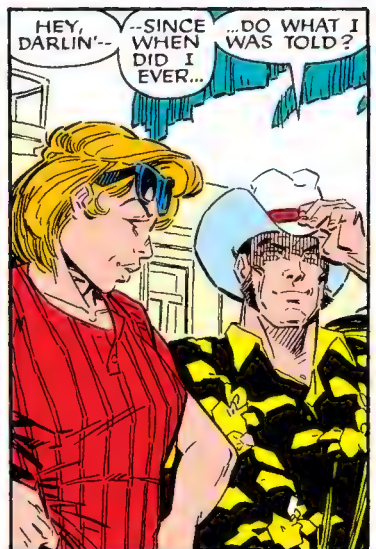
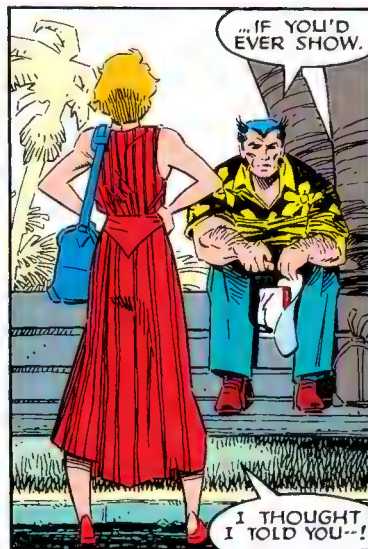
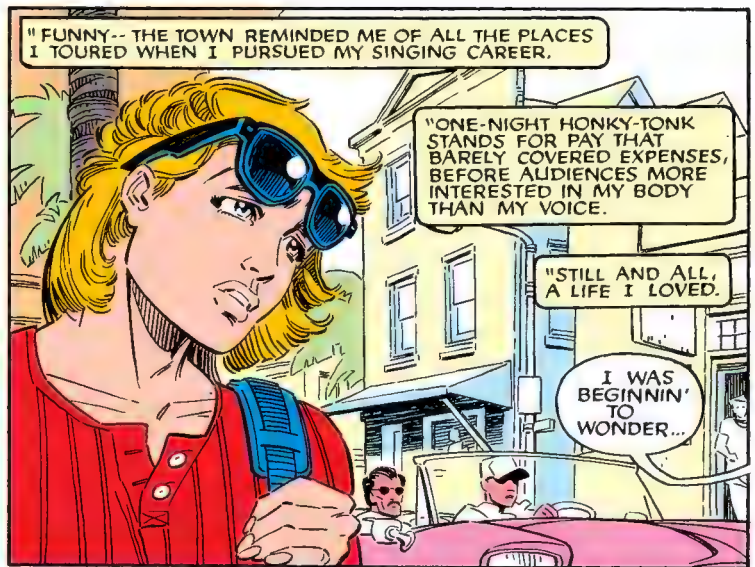
... I'LL ...

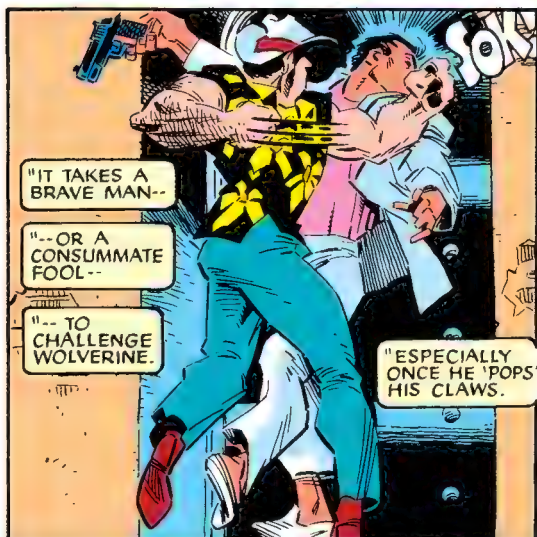
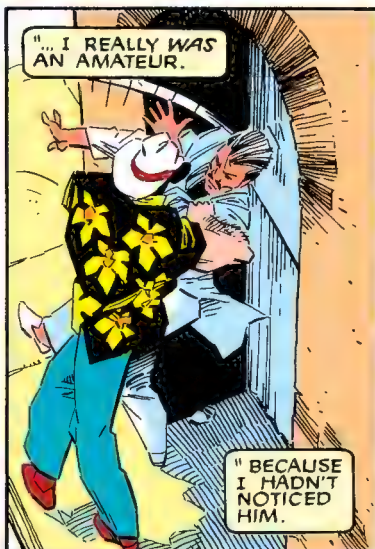
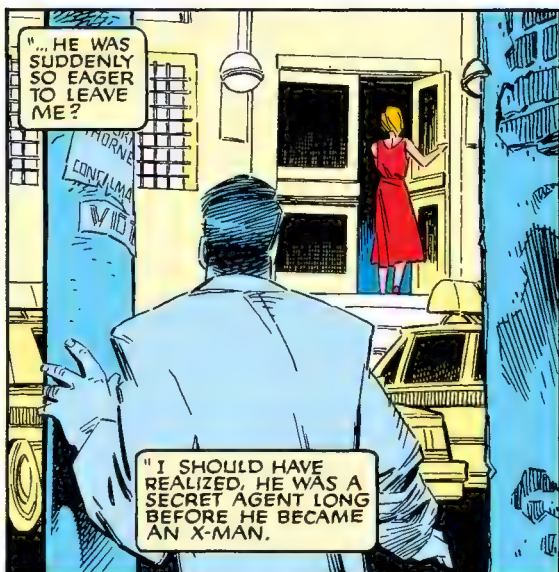
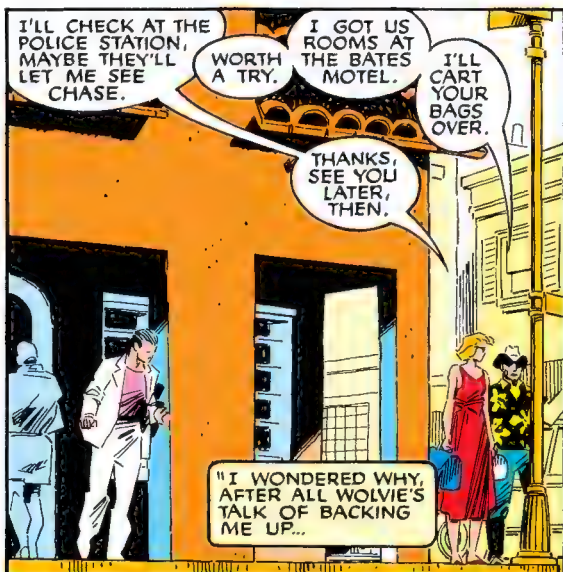
LORDAMERCY!

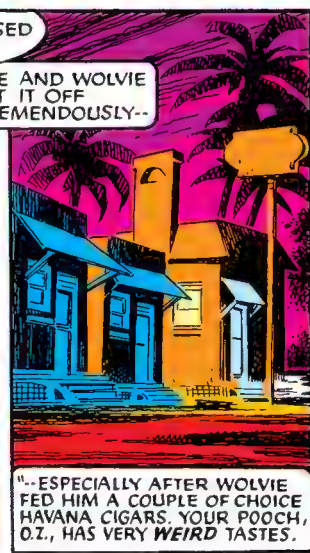
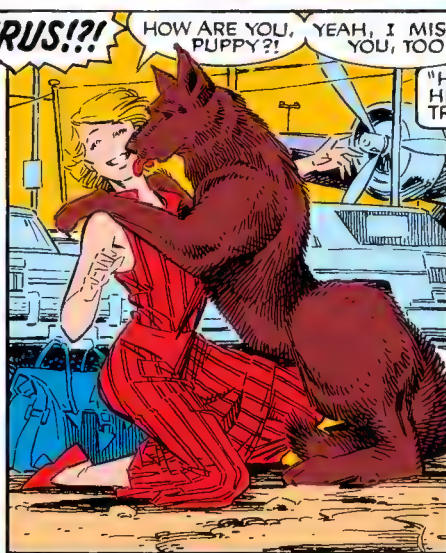
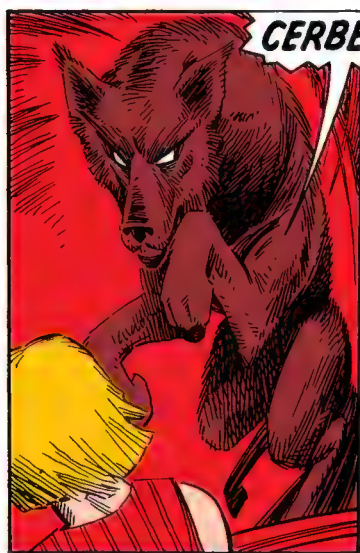
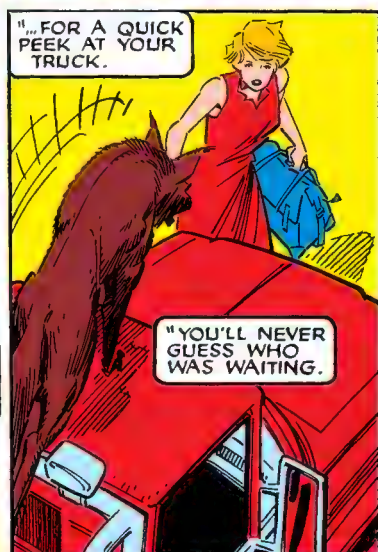
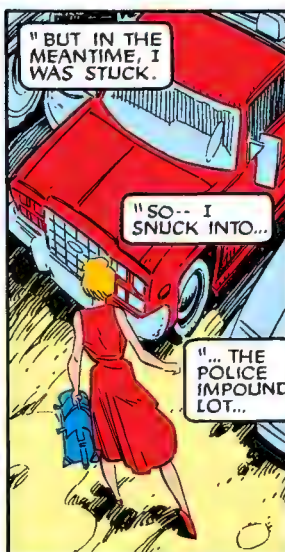
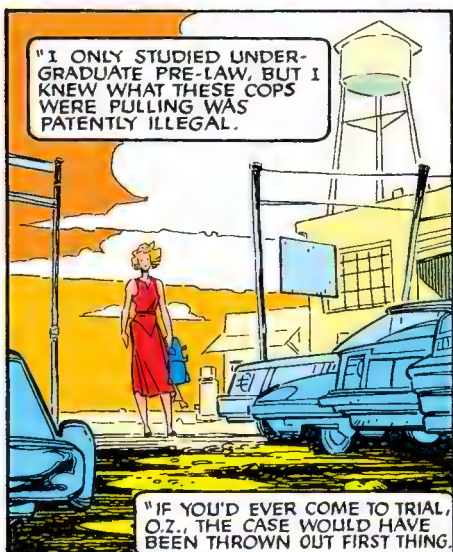
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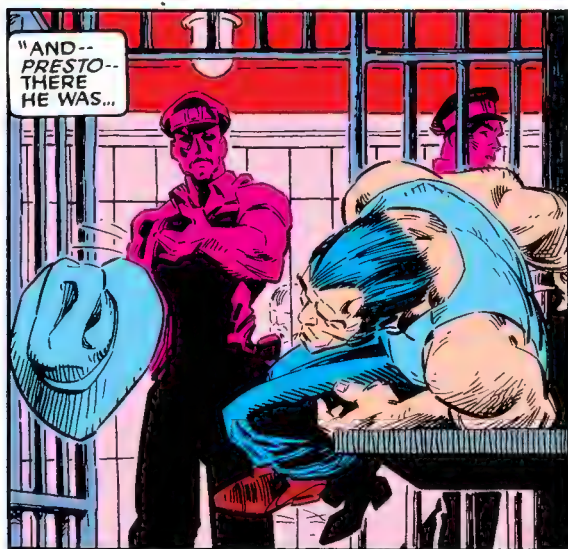
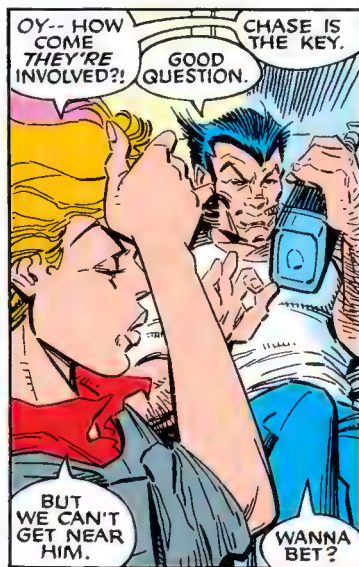
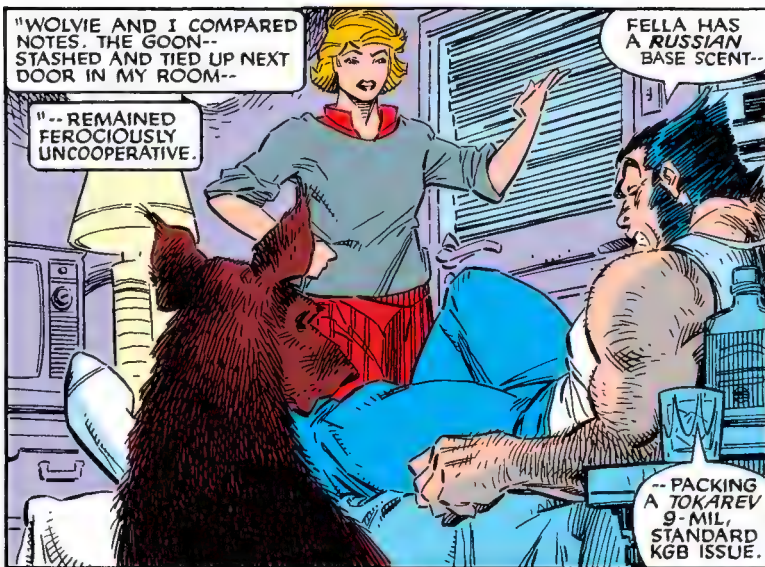
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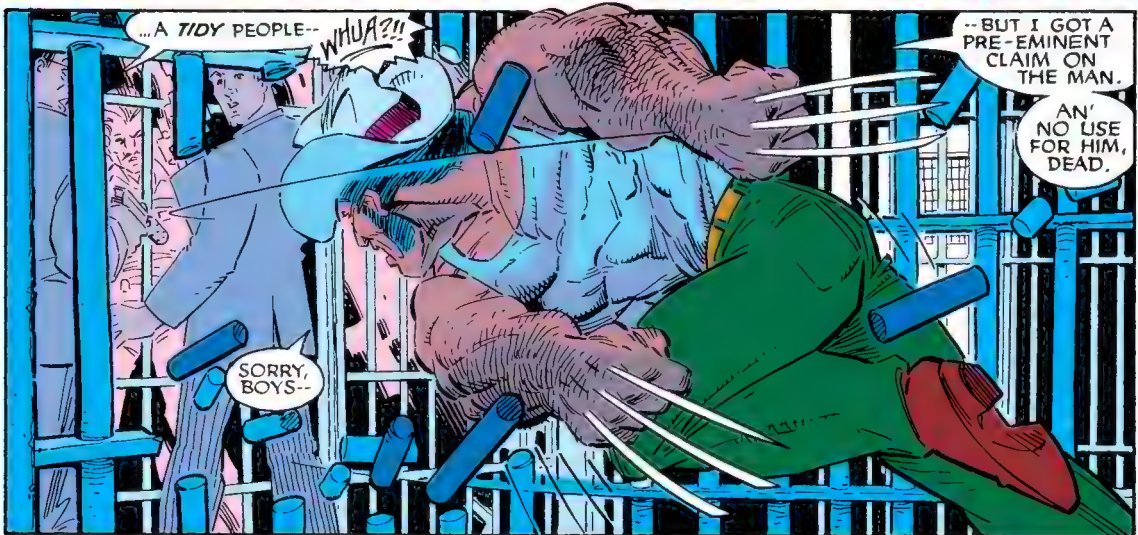
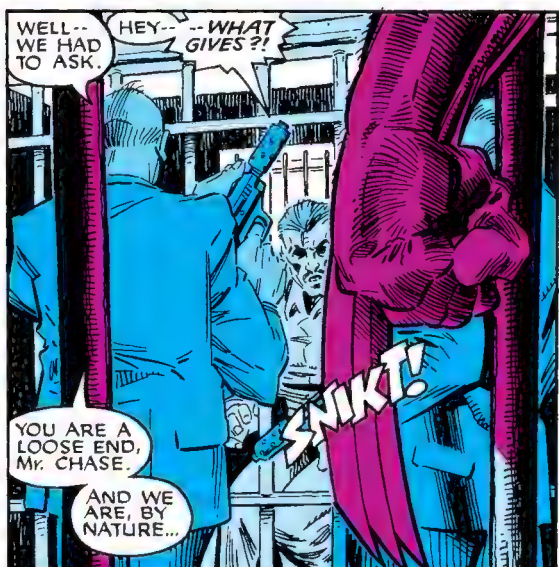
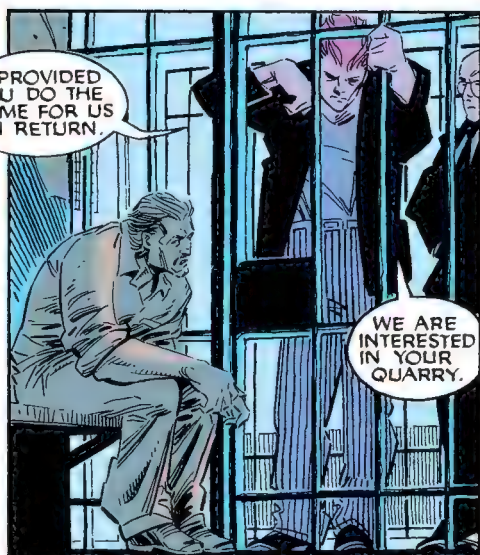
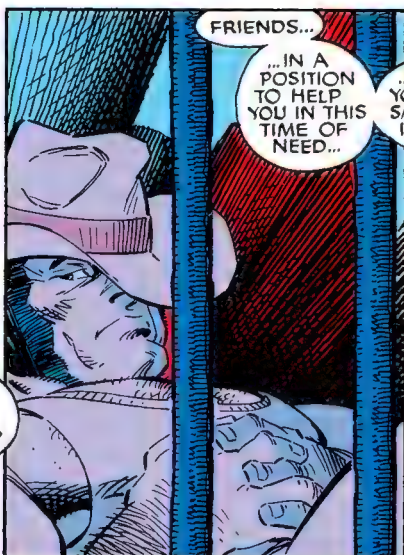
THOMAS?





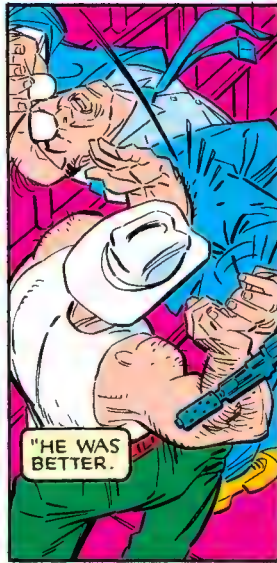








"THEY WERE GOOD."



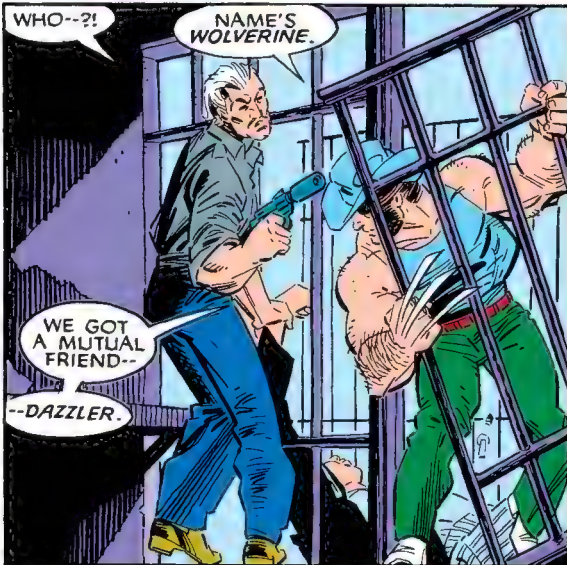
"HE WAS BETTER."



"AND, THE WAY I HEARD IT..."



"...YOU PLAYED YOUR PART AS WELL."

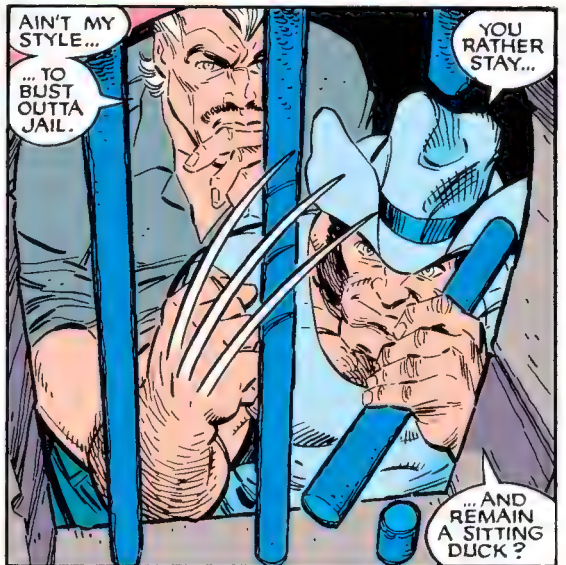


WHO--?!

NAME'S WOLVERINE.

WE GOT A MUTUAL FRIEND--

--DAZZLER.



AIN'T MY STYLE...

... TO BUST OUTTA JAIL.

YOU RATHER STAY...

... AND REMAIN A SITTING DUCK?



ASSUMING YOU'RE INNOCENT, O.Z. ...

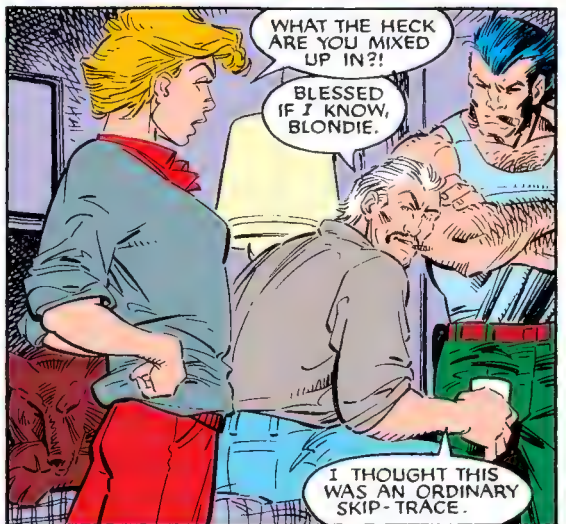
"ASSUMING?!"

"...SOMEONE'S GONE TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO FRAME YOU."

AND SOMEONE ELSE, IT SEEMS...

...IS GOING TO AS MUCH TROUBLE...

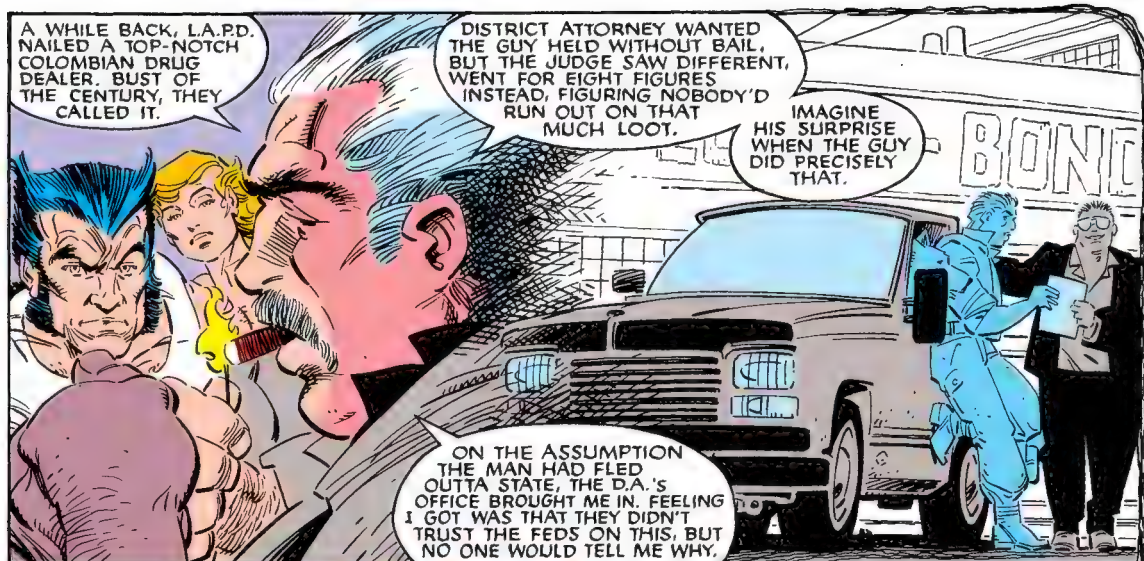
...TO HAVE YOU KILLED!



WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU MIXED UP IN?!

BLESSED IF I KNOW, BLONDIE.

I THOUGHT THIS WAS AN ORDINARY SKIP-TRACE.



A WHILE BACK, L.A.P.D. NAILED A TOP-NOTCH COLOMBIAN DRUG DEALER. BUST OF THE CENTURY, THEY CALLED IT.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY WANTED THE GUY HELD WITHOUT BAIL, BUT THE JUDGE SAW DIFFERENT, WENT FOR EIGHT FIGURES INSTEAD, FIGURING NOBODY'D RUN OUT ON THAT MUCH LOOT.

IMAGINE HIS SURPRISE WHEN THE GUY DID PRECISELY THAT.

ON THE ASSUMPTION THE MAN HAD FLED OUTTA STATE, THE D.A.'S OFFICE BROUGHT ME IN. FEELING I GOT WAS THAT THEY DIDN'T TRUST THE FEDS ON THIS, BUT NO ONE WOULD TELL ME WHY.



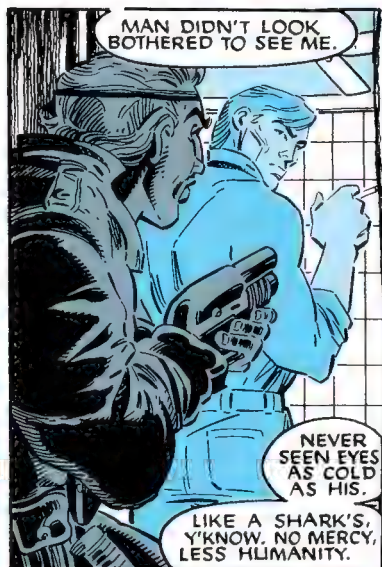
TOOK A WHILE, BUT THE TRAIL LED HERE, TO THE 'GLADES.

HE HAD A SMALL ARMY PROTECTIN' HIM.



DOG AN' ME...

...WE CUT 'EM DOWN TO SIZE.



MAN DIDN'T LOOK BOTHERED TO SEE ME.

NEVER SEEN EYES AS COLD AS HIS.

LIKE A SHARK'S, Y'KNOW. NO MERCY, LESS HUMANITY.

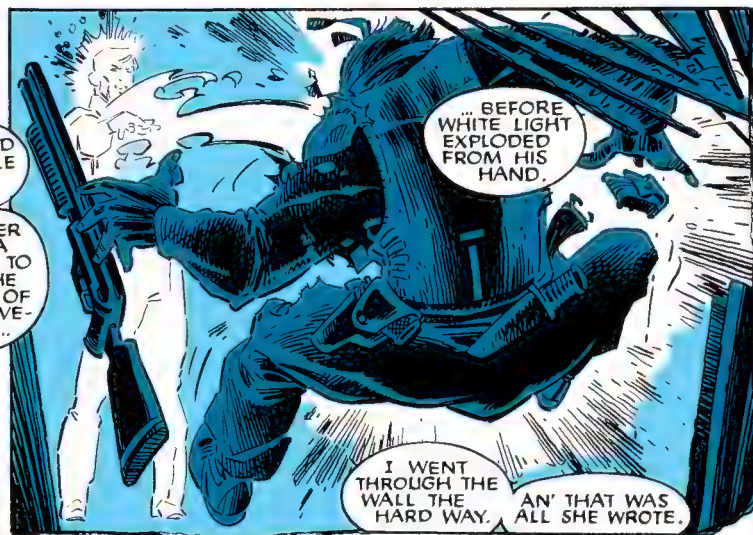


HE SMILED...

... AN' BEGAN TO GLOW--

--REMINDED ME A LITTLE OF YOU, DAZZ--

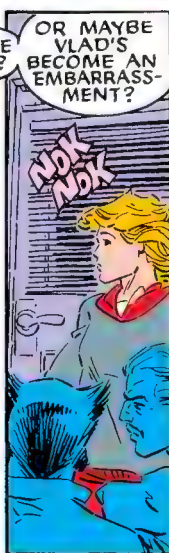
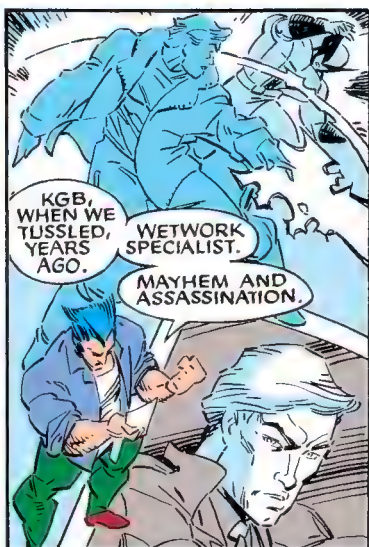
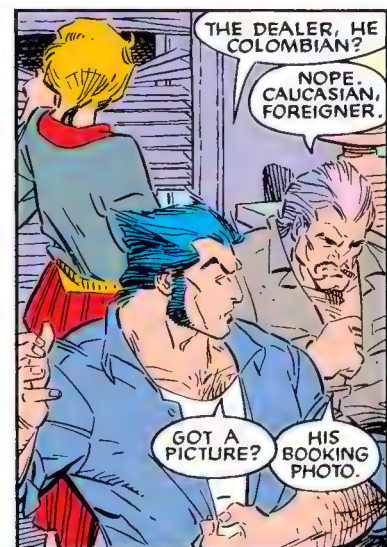
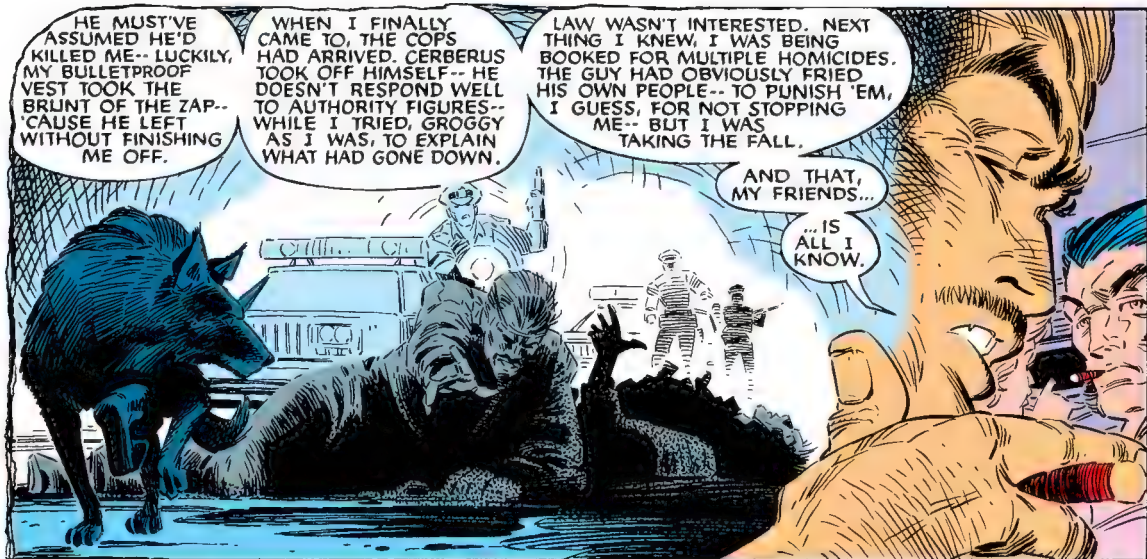
-- NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO PULL THE TRIGGER OF MY TWELVE-GAUGE...

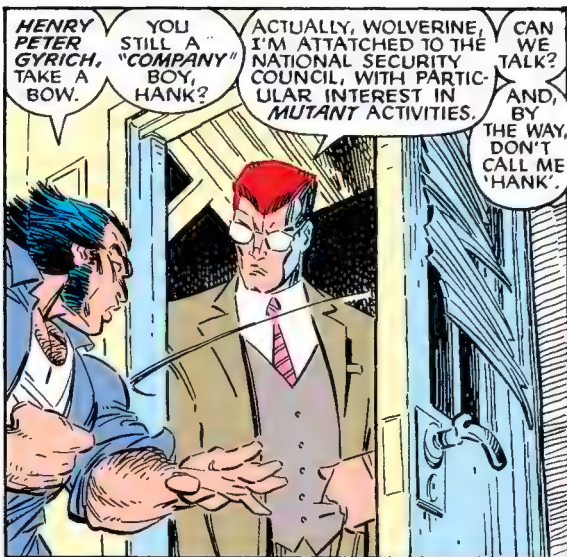


... BEFORE WHITE LIGHT EXPLODED FROM HIS HAND.

I WENT THROUGH THE WALL-- THE HARD WAY.

AN' THAT WAS ALL SHE WROTE.





HENRY PETER GYRICH, "COMPANY" TAKE A BOW.

YOU STILL A "COMPANY" BOY, HANK?

ACTUALLY, WOLVERINE, I'M ATTACHED TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, WITH PARTICULAR INTEREST IN *MUTANT* ACTIVITIES.

CAN WE TALK? AND, BY THE WAY, DON'T CALL ME 'HANK'.

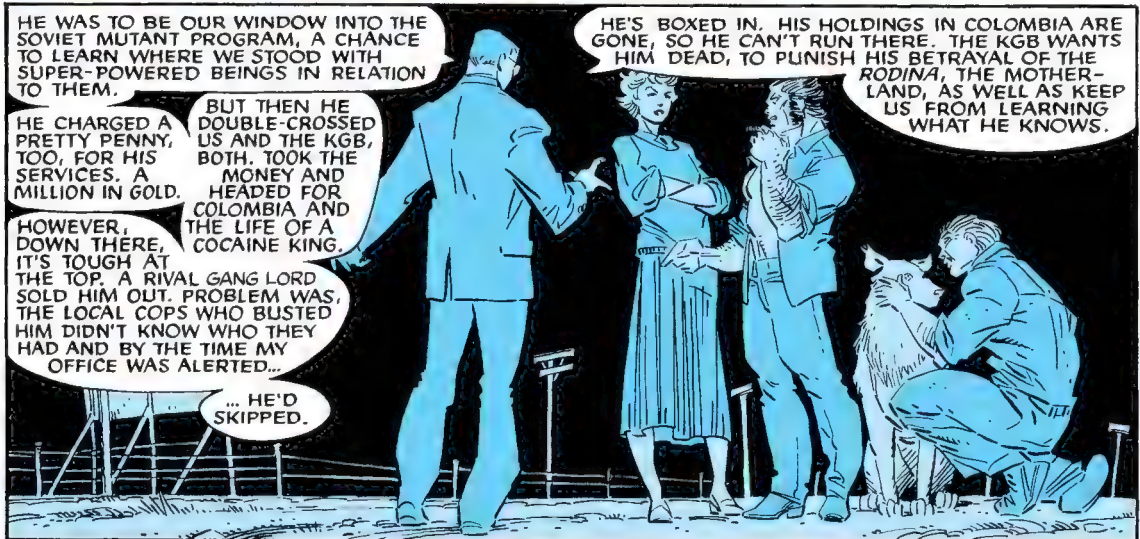


WHEN I WORKED FOR THE CANADIAN SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, HANK HERE WAS MY CIA LIAISON.

SO, OL' BUDDY, WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THIS NECK O' THE WOODS?

ZAITSEV, OF COURSE.

FIVE YEARS AGO, WE THOUGHT WE'D TURNED HIM. A PRIZE DEFECTION.



HE WAS TO BE OUR WINDOW INTO THE SOVIET MUTANT PROGRAM, A CHANCE TO LEARN WHERE WE STOOD WITH SUPER-POWERED BEINGS IN RELATION TO THEM.

HE CHARGED A PRETTY PENNY, TOO, FOR HIS SERVICES. A MILLION IN GOLD.

BUT THEN HE DOUBLE-CROSSED US AND THE KGB, BOTH. TOOK THE MONEY AND HEADED FOR COLOMBIA AND THE LIFE OF A COCAINE KING.

HOWEVER, DOWN THERE, IT'S TOUGH AT THE TOP. A RIVAL GANG LORD SOLD HIM OUT. PROBLEM WAS, THE LOCAL COPS WHO BUSTED HIM DIDN'T KNOW WHO THEY HAD AND BY THE TIME MY OFFICE WAS ALERTED...

... HE'D SKIPPED.

HE'S BOXED IN. HIS HOLDINGS IN COLOMBIA ARE GONE, SO HE CAN'T RUN THERE. THE KGB WANTS HIM DEAD, TO PUNISH HIS BETRAYAL OF THE RODINA, THE MOTHERLAND, AS WELL AS KEEP US FROM LEARNING WHAT HE KNOWS.



THEY'VE SENT OVER A TEAM OF TOP HITTERS TO DO THE JOB.

WE HAVE TO GET TO HIM FIRST.

AND YOU WANT ME TO DO IT?

YOU HAVE THE SKILLS, AND IT CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HURT THE X-MEN'S REPUTATION...



...TO CO-OPERATE...

...WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THIS MATTER.

ZAITSEV'S CRIMES DON'T MATTER?

THAT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN.

JUST BRING HIM IN, WOLVERINE-- ALIVE.

LEAVE THE REST TO US.

"NICE OF GYRICH TO TELL YOU THE CHARGES AGAINST YOU HAD BEEN DROPPED... WHEN HE WAS PROBABLY THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ARREST IN THE FIRST PLACE. SANCTIMONIOUSLY SELF-RIGHTEOUS CREEP."

"CRIME FOR HIM, WAS GOING TO PAY, IN SPADES."

"I UNDERSTOOD WOLVIE'S FEELINGS. FROM WHAT I HEARD, ZAITSEV HAD LEFT A TRAIL OF BODIES BACK TO RUSSIA AND BEYOND."

"YET, BECAUSE IT WAS SUPPOSEDLY IN AMERICA'S NATIONAL INTEREST, WE WERE GOING TO TURN A BLIND EYE TO ALL THAT. GIVE HIM A NEW IDENTITY, A NEW LIFE, GUARANTEED SAFETY TO THE END OF HIS DAYS."



"I'LL BET HE WAS WAITING FOR GYRICH, THAT NIGHT IN THE 'GLADES, WHEN YOU DROPPED IN ON HIM."



"DID HE THINK GYRICH HAD DOUBLE-CROSSED HIM, ABANDONED HIM?"

"NEAT PLAN, Y'KNOW? THIS WAY, ZAITSEV JUMPS BAIL AND SIMPLY DISAPPEARS."

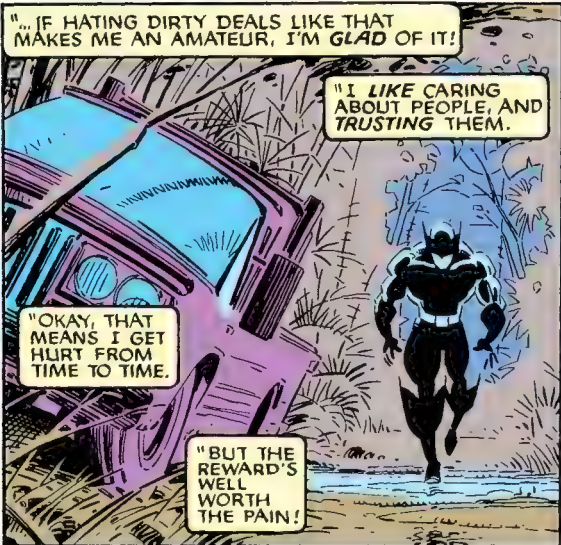


"THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T HAVE TO TAKE ANY P.R. FLAK FOR GRANTING AMNESTY TO A TOTAL SLUDGECKET."

"I TELL YA, PAL..."

"... IF HATING DIRTY DEALS LIKE THAT MAKES ME AN AMATEUR, I'M GLAD OF IT!"

"I LIKE CARING ABOUT PEOPLE, AND TRUSTING THEM."



"OKAY, THAT MEANS I GET HURT FROM TIME TO TIME."

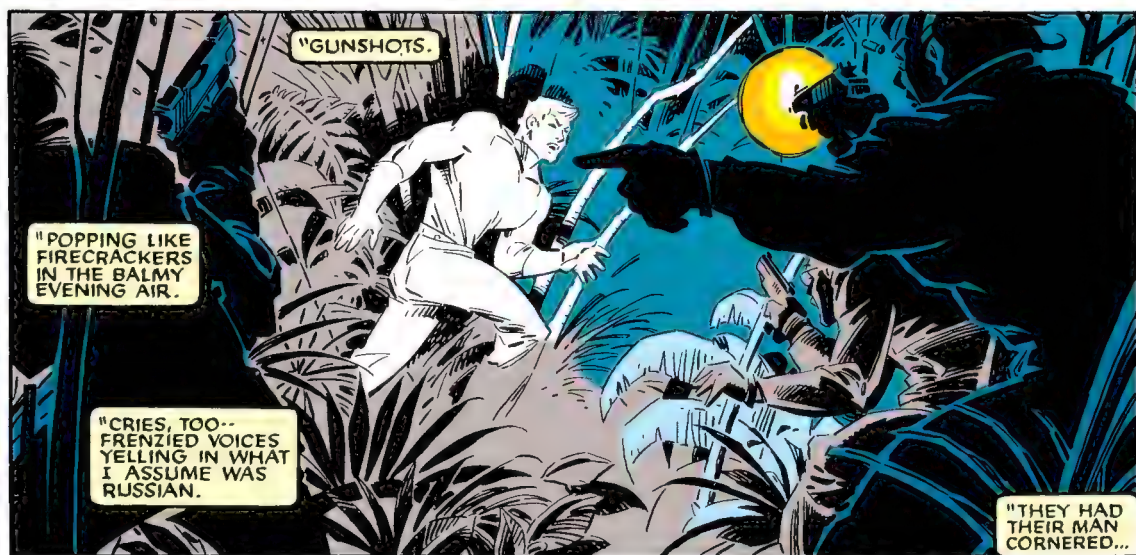
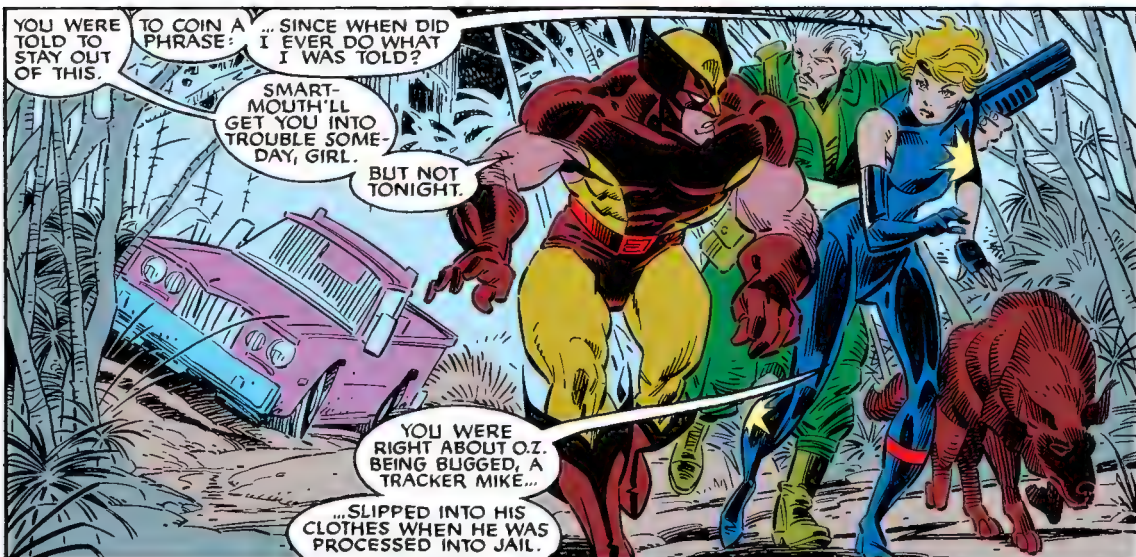
"BUT THE REWARD'S WELL WORTH THE PAIN!"

"AND I'M A LOT TOUGHER THAN I LOOK."

"WE WERE BEGINNIN' TO WONDER, SHORTY..."

"... IF YOU'D EVER SHOW."







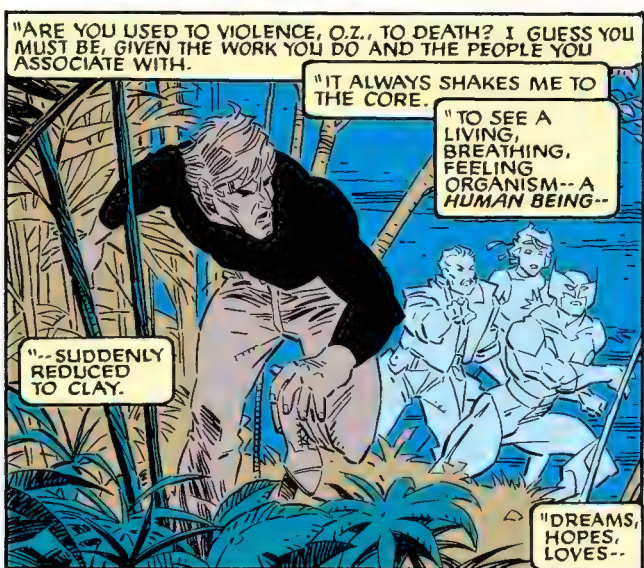
"...FORGETTING, IN THE PROCESS..."

"... THAT'S WHEN HE BECOMES..."



"... MOST DANGEROUS."

ANYE!



"ARE YOU USED TO VIOLENCE, O.Z., TO DEATH? I GUESS YOU MUST BE, GIVEN THE WORK YOU DO AND THE PEOPLE YOU ASSOCIATE WITH."

"IT ALWAYS SHAKES ME TO THE CORE."

"TO SEE A LIVING, BREATHING, FEELING ORGANISM-- A HUMAN BEING--"

"--SUDDENLY REDUCED TO CLAY."

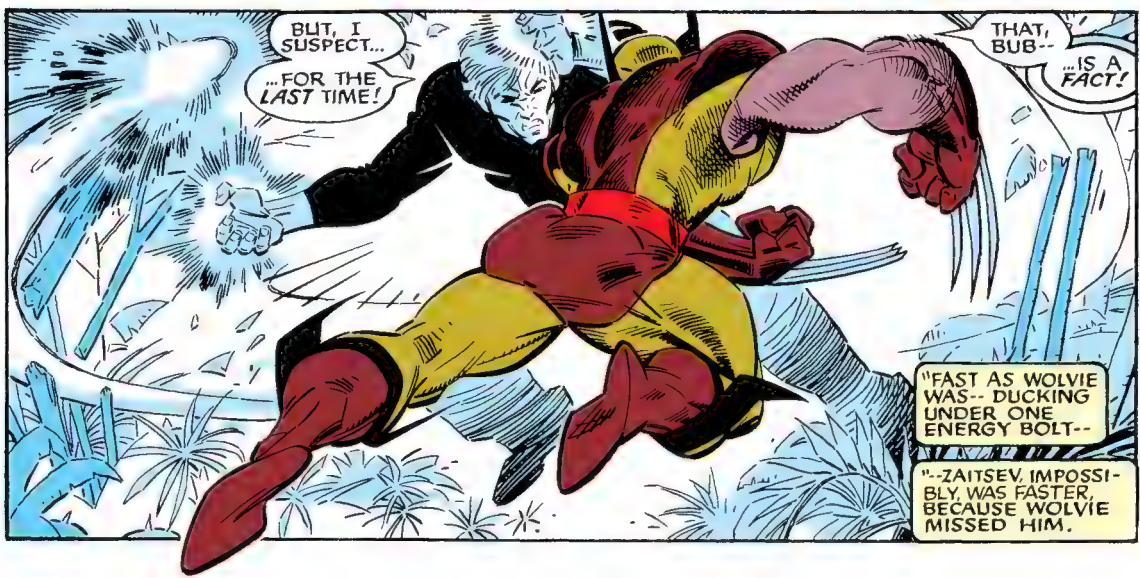
"DREAMS, HOPES, LOVES--"



"--MADE INSTANT DUST, AS IF THEY'D NEVER BEEN."

SO, TOVARISCH--

--WE MEET AGAIN.



BUT, I SUSPECT...
...FOR THE LAST TIME!

THAT, BUB--
...IS A FACT!

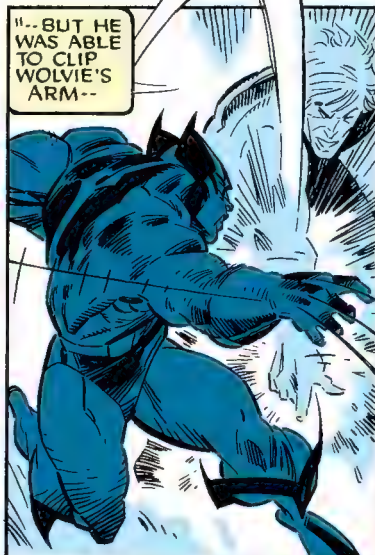
"FAST AS WOLVIE WAS-- DUCKING UNDER ONE ENERGY BOLT--"

"--ZAITSEV, IMPOSSIBLY, WAS FASTER, BECAUSE WOLVIE MISSED HIM."



"ZAITSEV DIDN'T HAVE SUFFICIENT 'JUICE' FOR ANOTHER FULL-POWER BLAST--

"...oh BROTHER, DID I KNOW THAT FEELING--



"...BUT HE WAS ABLE TO CLIP WOLVIE'S ARM--



"...HARD ENOUGH TO PARALYZE IT.

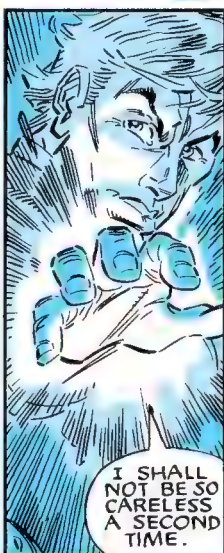


YO, BRIGHT-EYES-- REMEMBER ME?!

THE BOUNTY MAN!

I'D BE SAFE NOW, IF NOT FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE.

I SHOULD HAVE MADE CERTAIN OF YOU WHEN LAST WE MET.



I SHALL NOT BE SO CARELESS A SECOND TIME.



SORRY, BUSTER...

... BUT I LIKE THE MAN...

...THE WAY HE IS!

"MY DAZZLE-STROBE DISORIENTED HIM..."



"... AND HE RAN LIKE A RABBIT.

"AS USUAL, WOLVIE FIGURED I'D SCREWED UP.



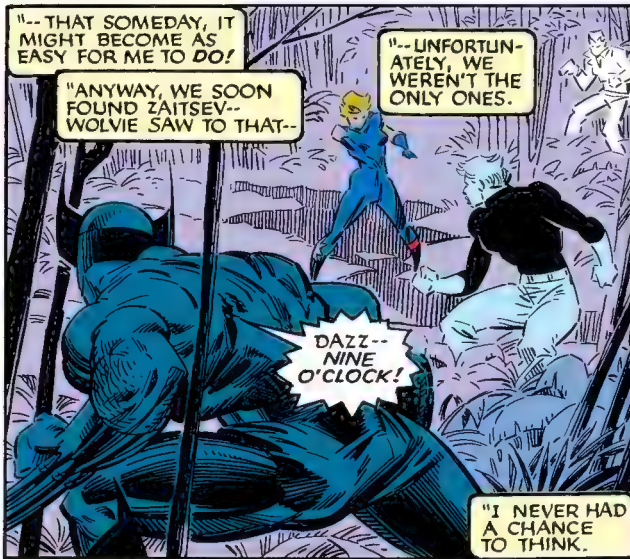
SHOULD'A USED YOUR PHOTON BLAST TO DECK HIM, DAZZ...

... OR, BETTER YET, YOUR LASER TO FINISH THE JOB.



"EASY FOR HIM TO SAY."

"I'M SO AFRAID, O.Z. --"



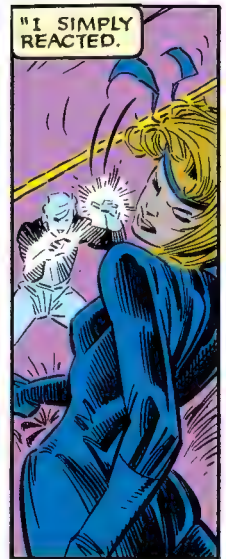
"-- THAT SOMEDAY, IT MIGHT BECOME AS EASY FOR ME TO DO!"

"ANYWAY, WE SOON FOUND ZAITSEV-- WOLVIE SAW TO THAT--"

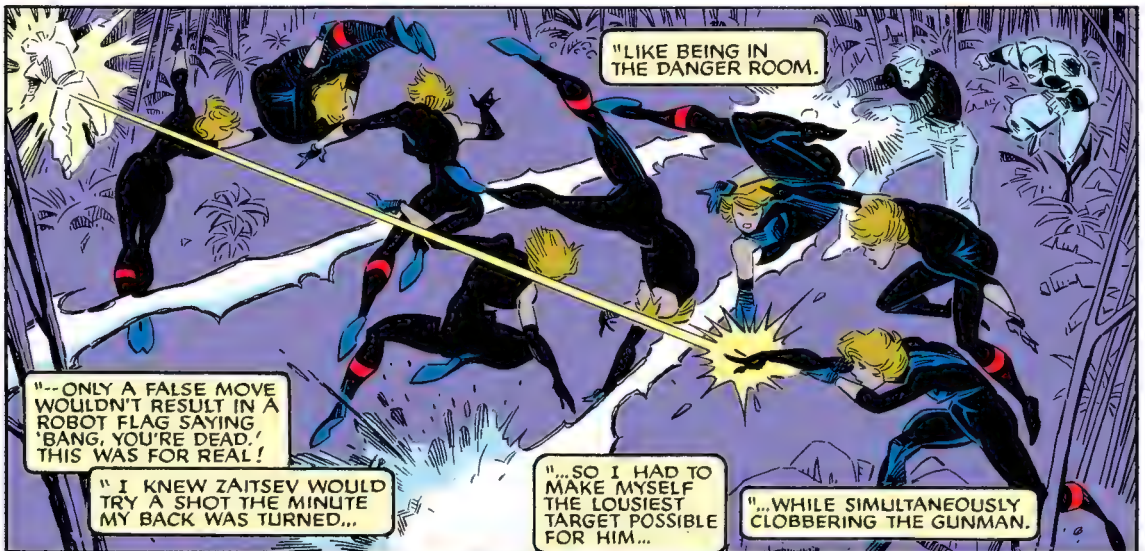
"-- UNFORTUNATELY, WE WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES."

"DAZZ-- NINE O'CLOCK!"

"I NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO THINK."



"I SIMPLY REACTED."



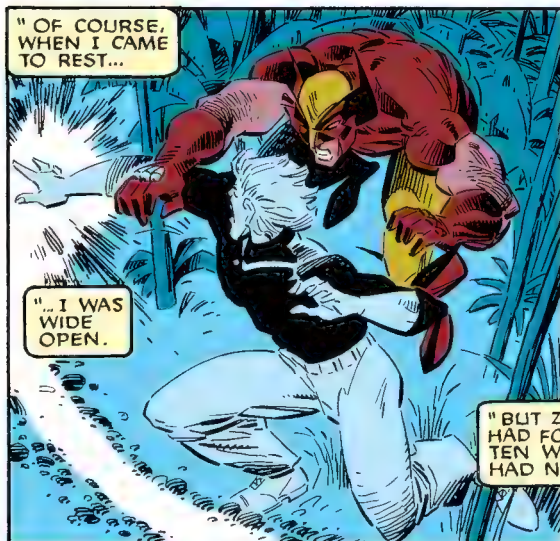
"LIKE BEING IN THE DANGER ROOM."

"-- ONLY A FALSE MOVE WOULDN'T RESULT IN A ROBOT FLAG SAYING 'BANG, YOU'RE DEAD.' THIS WAS FOR REAL!"

"I KNEW ZAITSEV WOULD TRY A SHOT THE MINUTE MY BACK WAS TURNED..."

"... SO I HAD TO MAKE MYSELF THE LOUSIEST TARGET POSSIBLE FOR HIM..."

"... WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY CLOBBERING THE GUNMAN."



"OF COURSE, WHEN I CAME TO REST..."

"... I WAS WIDE OPEN."

"BUT ZAITSEV HAD FORGOTTEN WHAT I HAD NOT..."



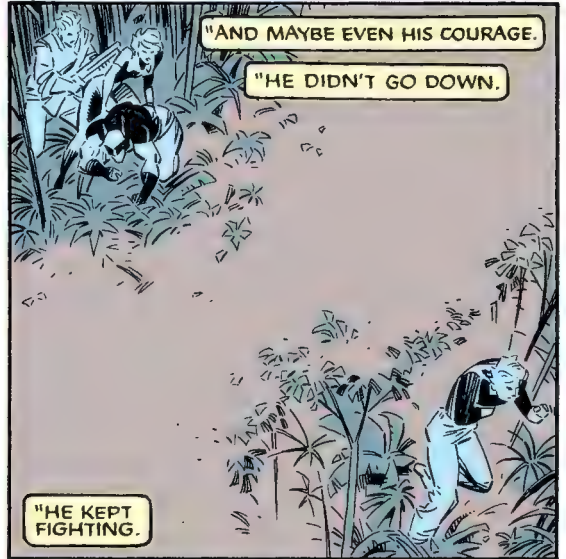
"AWARGH!"

"... NAMELY, THAT I WASN'T ALONE."



"IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, THOUGH..."

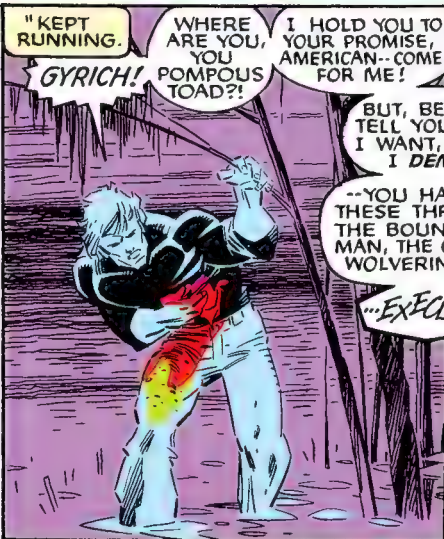
"... I HAD TO ADMIRE THE MAN'S STAMINA."



"AND MAYBE EVEN HIS COURAGE."

"HE DIDN'T GO DOWN."

"HE KEPT FIGHTING."



"KEPT RUNNING."

GYRICH!

WHERE ARE YOU, YOU POMPOUS TOAD?!

I HOLD YOU TO YOUR PROMISE, AMERICAN-- COME FOR ME!

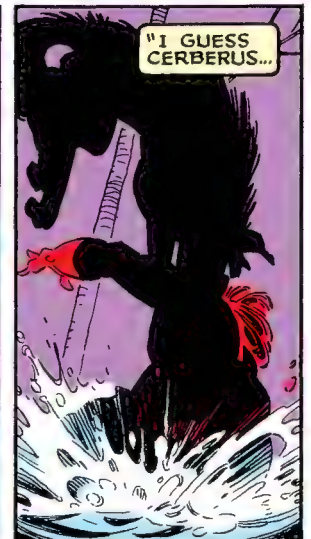
BUT, BEFORE I TELL YOU A WORD, I WANT, I INSIST, I DEMAND--

--YOU HAVE THESE THREE: THE BOUNTY MAN, THE GIRL, WOLVERINE...

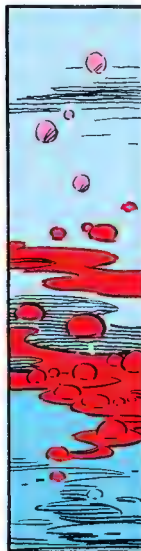
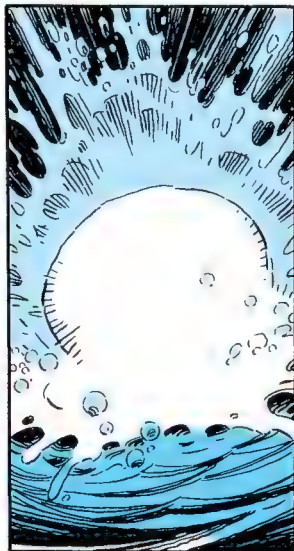
"...EXECUTED!"

THAT IS MY PRICE, GYRICH! THEIR LIVES FOR...

...MINE.

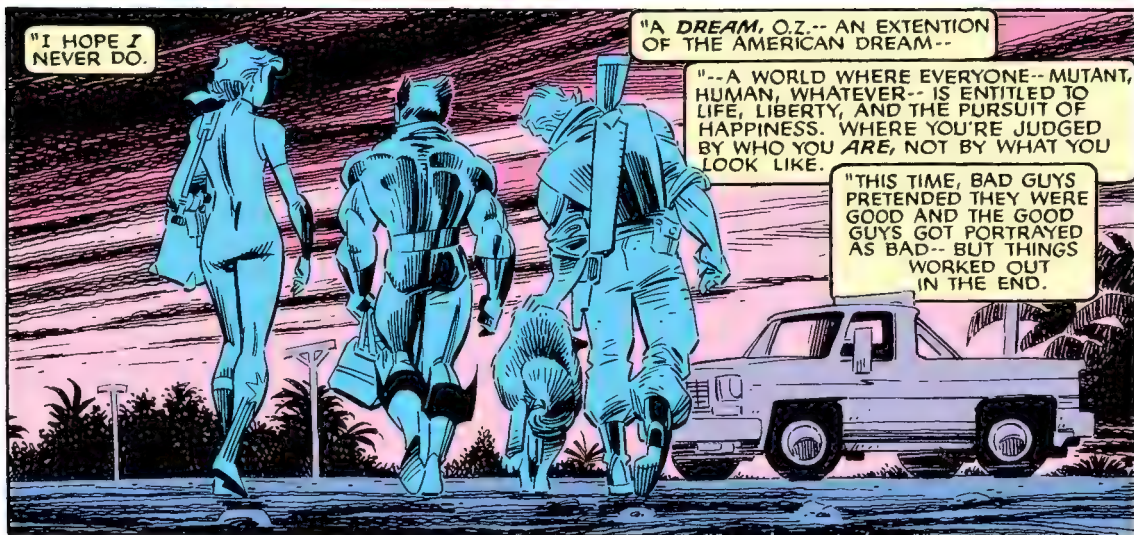
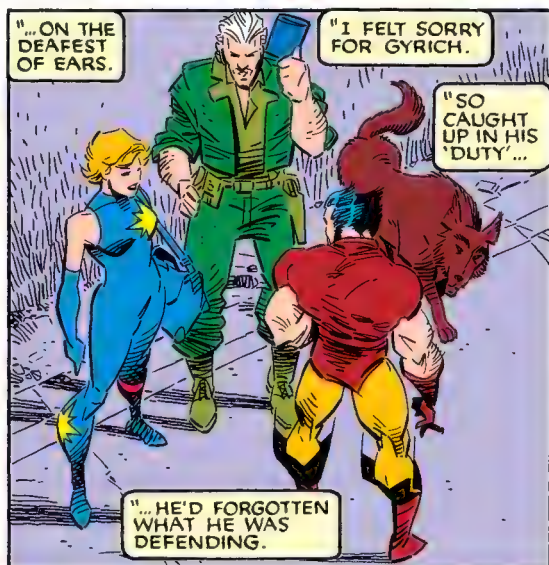
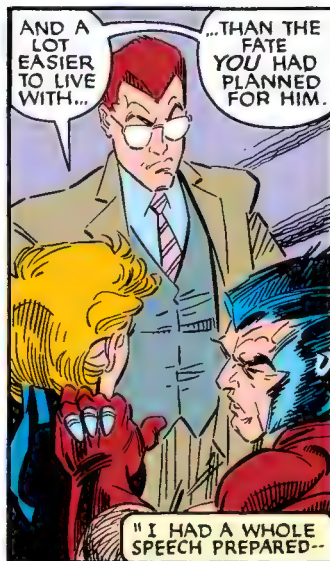
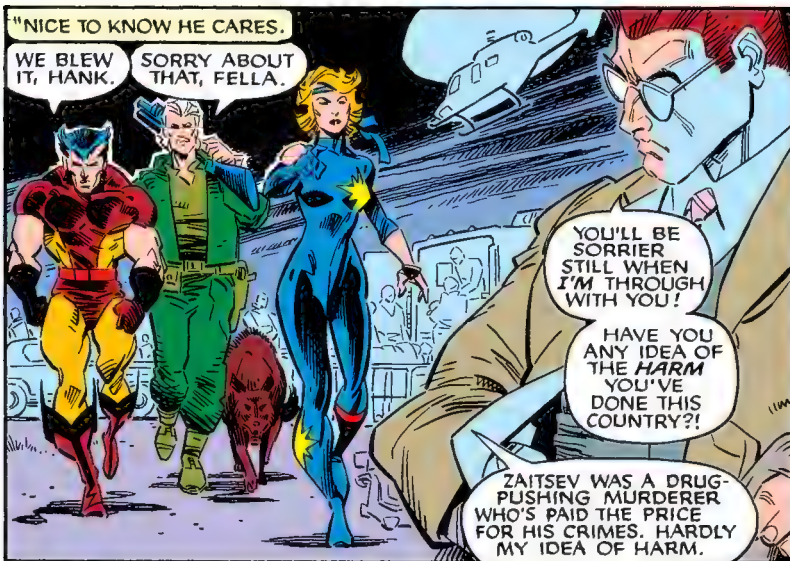


"I GUESS CERBERUS..."



"... CONSIDERED THAT A PRETTY FAIR DEAL."





the good guys... but things worked out... because we knew - we leave who to trust. We may not be so lucky next time. Hey - maybe (hopefully soon) we can get together. I'd like to see you. I miss you (and Cerberus, too!) You're a friend, O.Z., and outside of my fellow X-Men, they're hard to find. And well worth cherishing.

Lotsa love,
Ali

X-MEN KILLED
MUTANT SONGSTRESS
DAZZLER AMONG SLAIN

DALLAS - AUTHORITIES RE...
MYSTIFIED BY HOO...
SEVEN ME...
clues are...

Y'ASK ME, IT'S GOOD RIDDANCE. THOSE MUTIES GOT WHAT THEY DESERVED. WORLD'S BETTER OFF WITHOUT THEIR KIND.

SOME OF THOSE "MUTIES" PAL, WERE FRIENDS OF MINE.

IT'S DISRESPECTFUL TO SPEAK SO OF THE DEAD.

HOW'S ABOUT, INSTEAD, YOU ALL RAISE YOUR GLASSES IN A TOAST?

AN' IF YOU DON'T--

--WELL, I'M A TOLERANT MAN BY NATURE.

GRRRRR

BUT MY DOG, HE'S GOT A REAL SHORT FUSE.

TO DAZZLER, AND THE X-MEN!

TO DAZZLER, AND THE X-MEN!

MAY YOU FIND THE PEACE-- AND WORLD--

--YOU DREAMED OF.

'CAUSE, FOLKS, YOU MORE THAN EARNED IT!

AN', ALI-GIRL--

--SWEET, DARLIN' DAZZLER--

--THIS ONE'S FOR YOU!

NEXT: DOWN UNDER!

MARVEL[®]

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN[®]



\$1.00 US

\$1.25 CAN

229

MAY

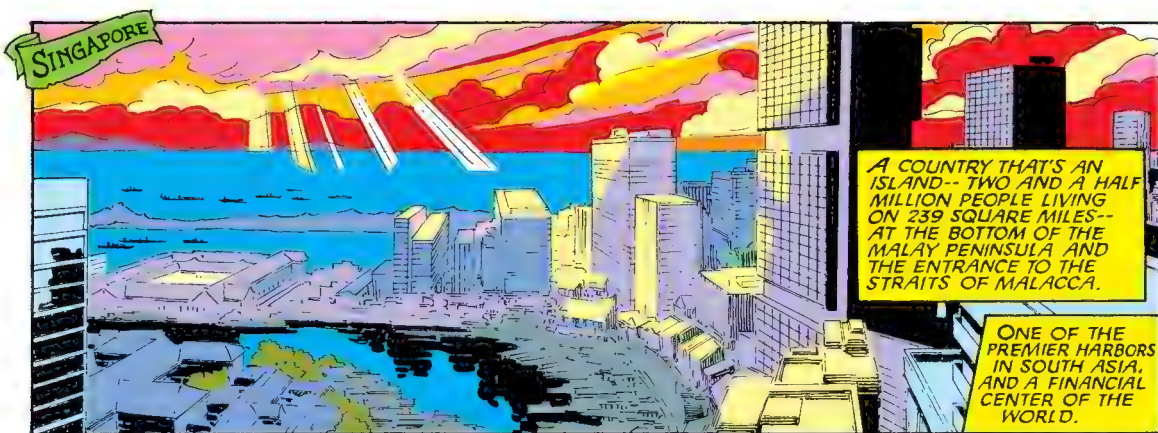
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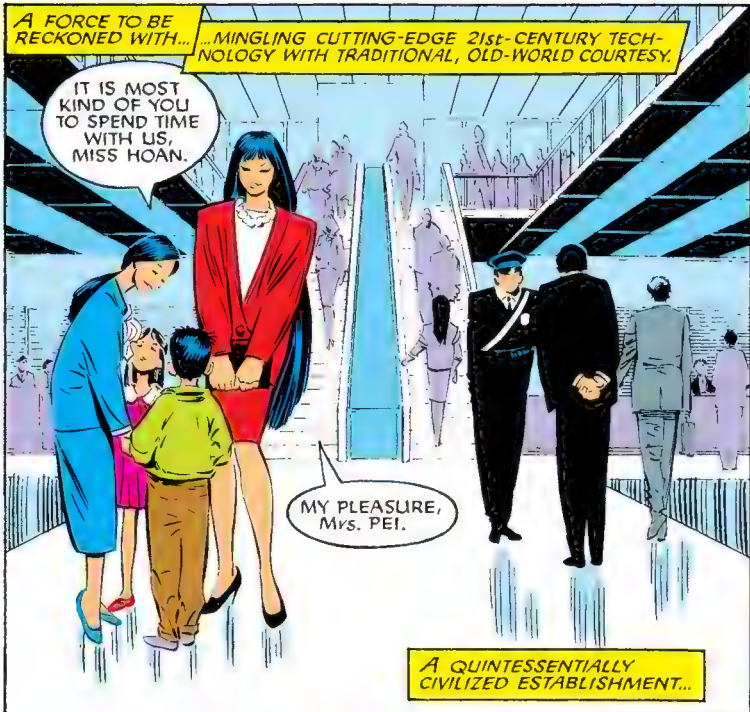
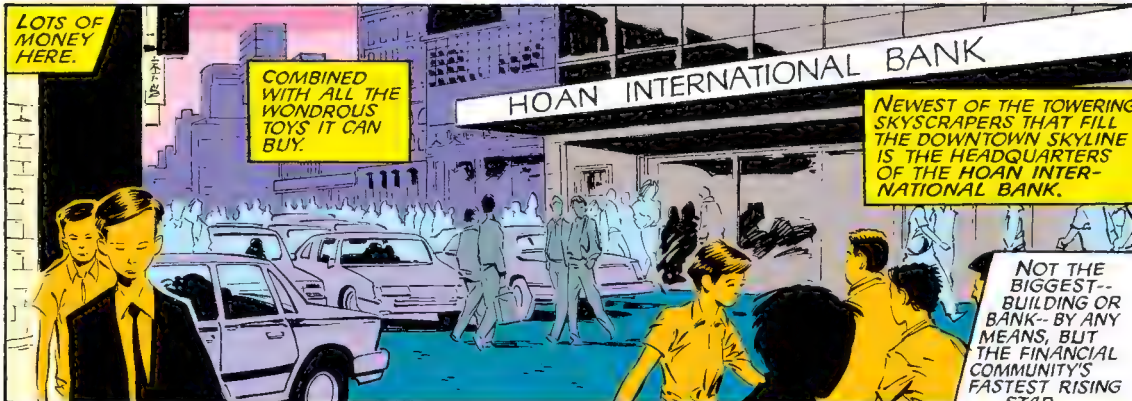
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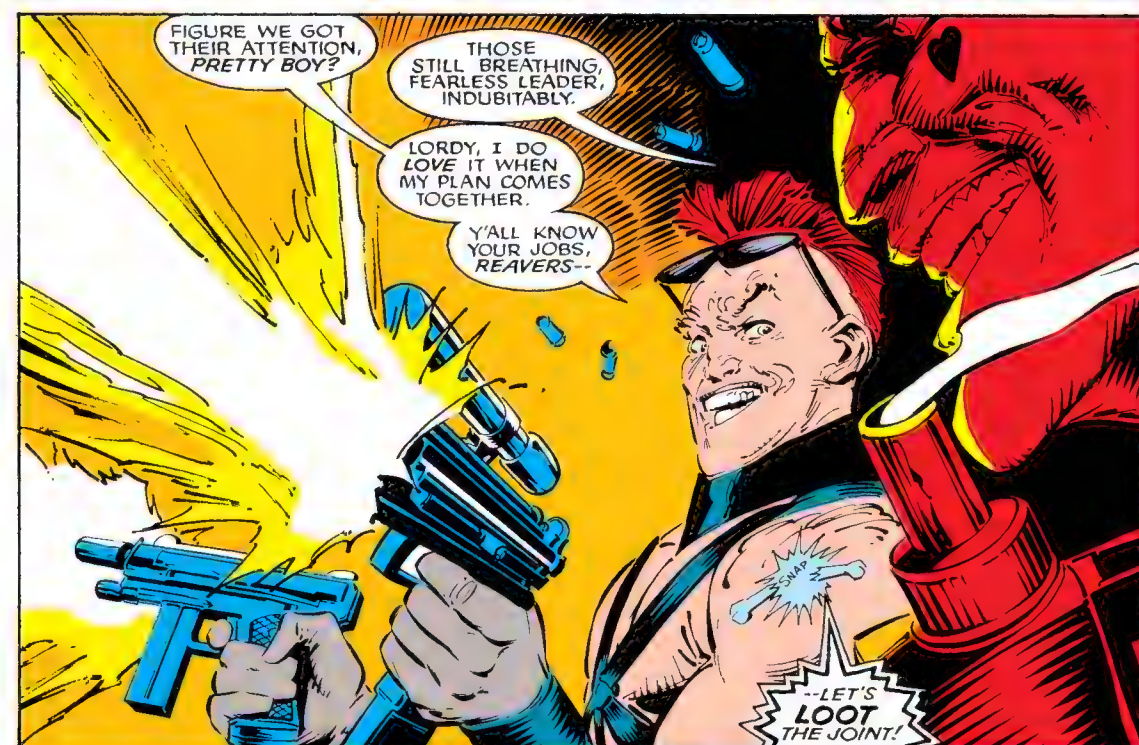
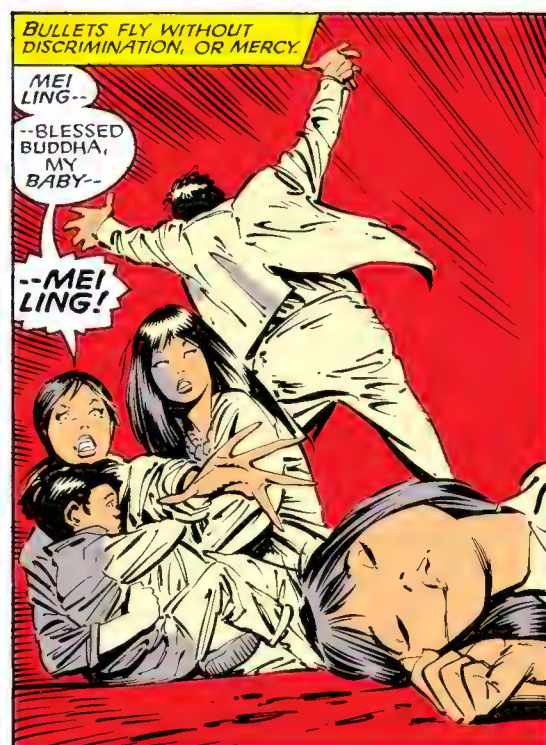
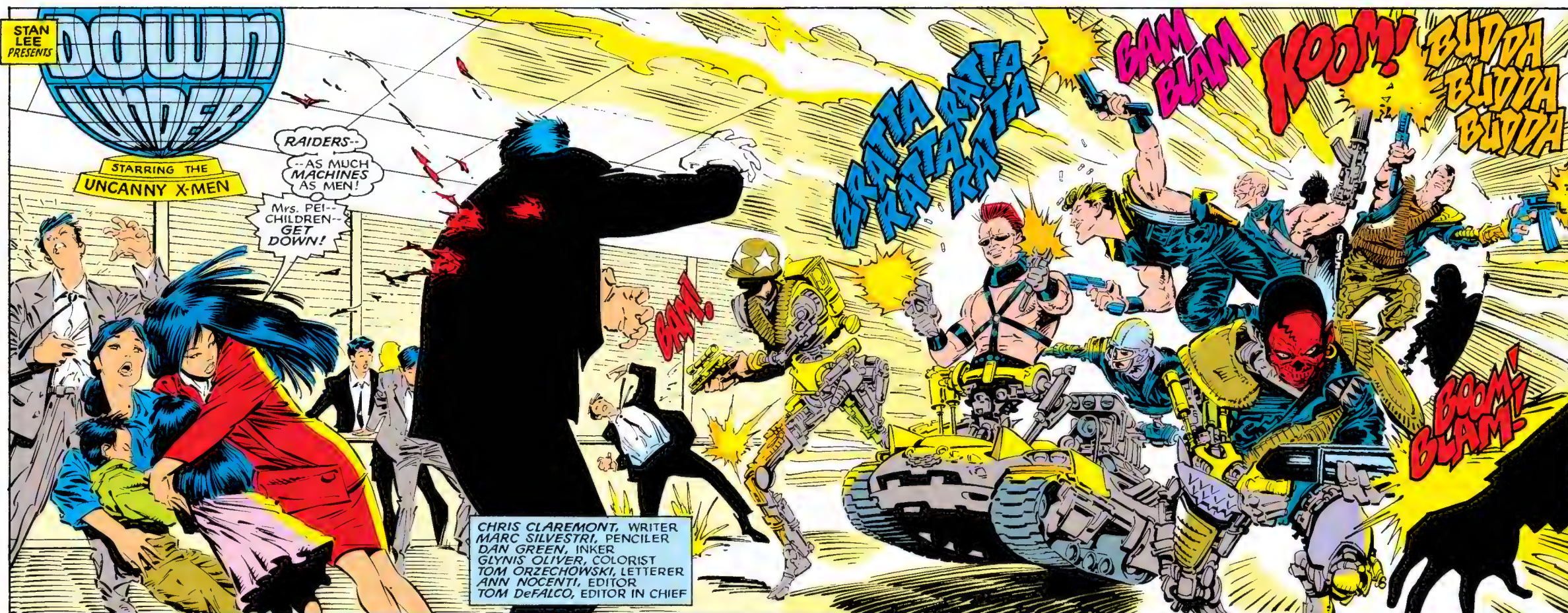




A COUNTRY THAT'S AN ISLAND-- TWO AND A HALF MILLION PEOPLE LIVING ON 239 SQUARE MILES-- AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MALAY PENINSULA AND THE ENTRANCE TO THE STRAITS OF MALACCA.

ONE OF THE PREMIER HARBORS IN SOUTH ASIA, AND A FINANCIAL CENTER OF THE WORLD.





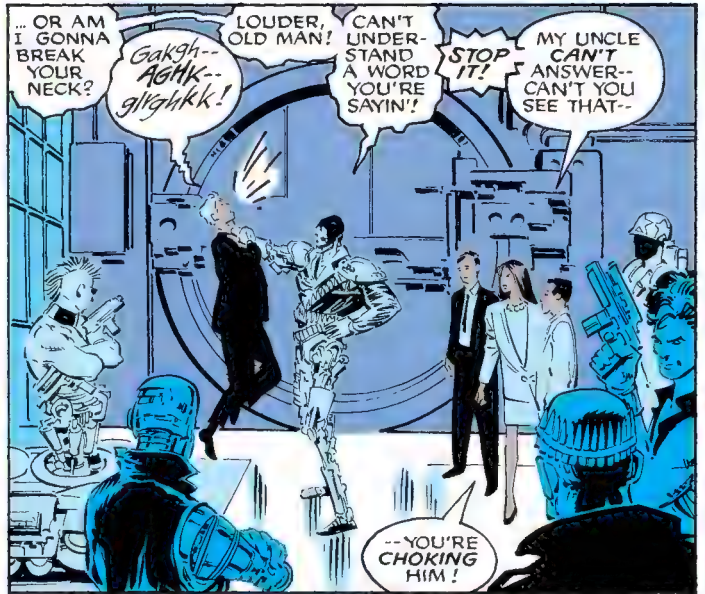


AND SO...

YO, PREZ--

--YOU GONNA BE A GOOD BOY...

...AN' OPEN YOUR MAIN VAULT...



...OR AM I GONNA BREAK YOUR NECK?

Gakgh-- AGHK-- gllghkkk!

LOUDEST, OLD MAN!

CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU'RE SAYIN'!

STOP IT!

MY UNCLE CAN'T ANSWER-- CAN'T YOU SEE THAT--



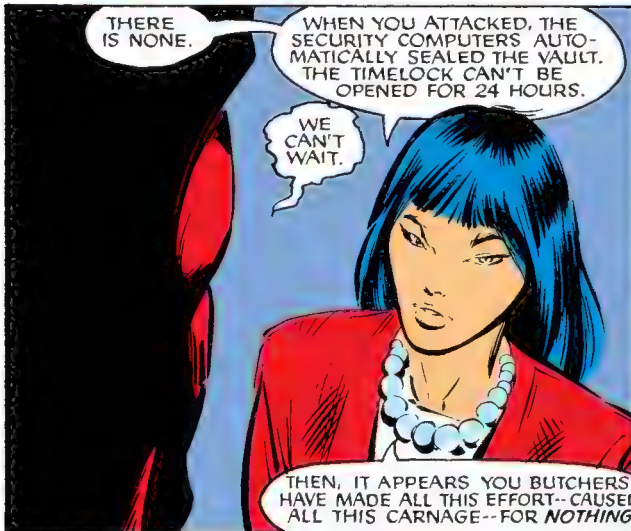
WHO! CHECK THIS OUT!

HEY, SKULLBUSTER-- BETTER WATCH YORE STEP, BRO'...

...THIS CHICA'S TOUGH!



I'M A REASONABLE MAN.



THERE IS NONE.

WHEN YOU ATTACKED, THE SECURITY COMPUTERS AUTOMATICALLY SEALED THE VAULT. THE TIMELOCK CAN'T BE OPENED FOR 24 HOURS.

WE CAN'T WAIT.

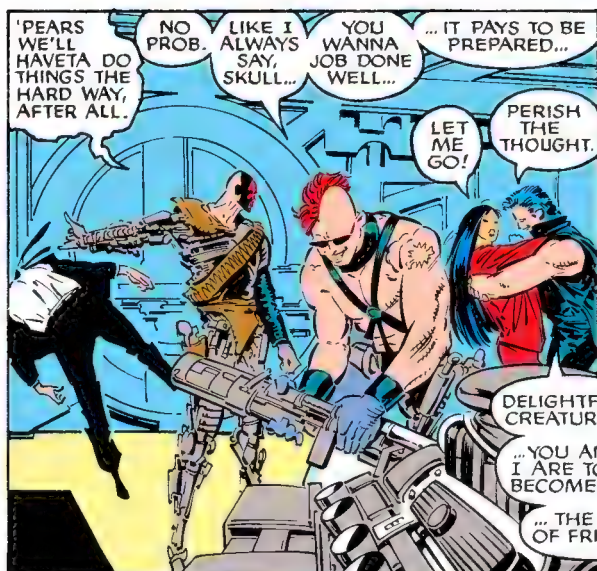
THEN, IT APPEARS YOU BUTCHERS HAVE MADE ALL THIS EFFORT-- CAUSED ALL THIS CARNAGE-- FOR NOTHING!



NO FOOLIN' ???

GOLLYGOSHGEE-- I GUESS THEN WE DON'T NEED THE OLD GEEZER NO MORE.

UNCLE!?!



'PEARS WE'LL HAVETA DO THINGS THE HARD WAY, AFTER ALL.

NO PROB.

LIKE I ALWAYS SAY, SKULL...

YOU WANNA JOB DONE WELL...

... IT PAYS TO BE PREPARED...

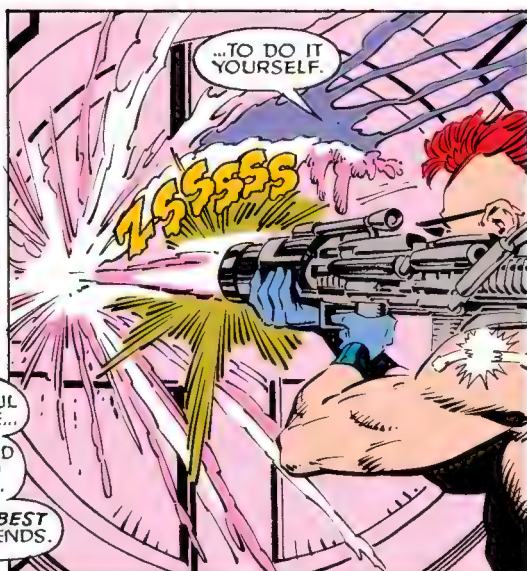
LET ME GO!

PERISH THE THOUGHT.

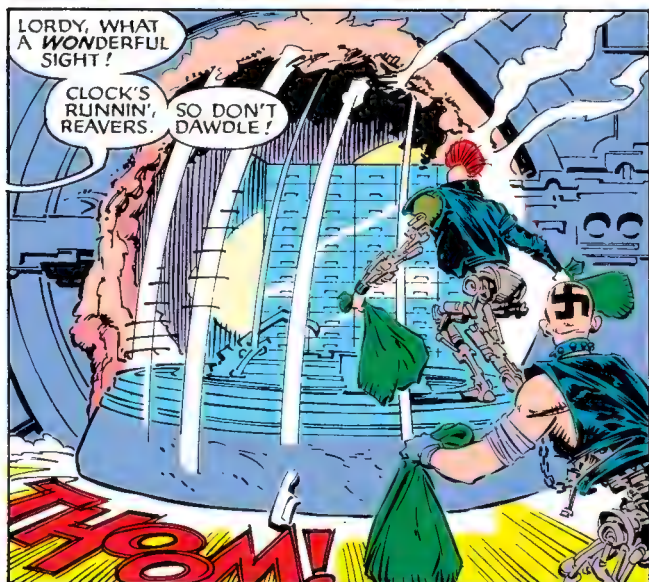
DELIGHTFUL CREATURE...

... YOU AND I ARE TO BECOME...

... THE BEST OF FRIENDS.



...TO DO IT YOURSELF.



LORDY, WHAT A WONDERFUL SIGHT!

CLOCK'S RUNNIN', REAVERS.

SO DON'T DAWDLE!

THOM!



NEW TOY, PRETTYBOY?

A RECRUIT, ACTUALLY.

JESSÁN HOAN.

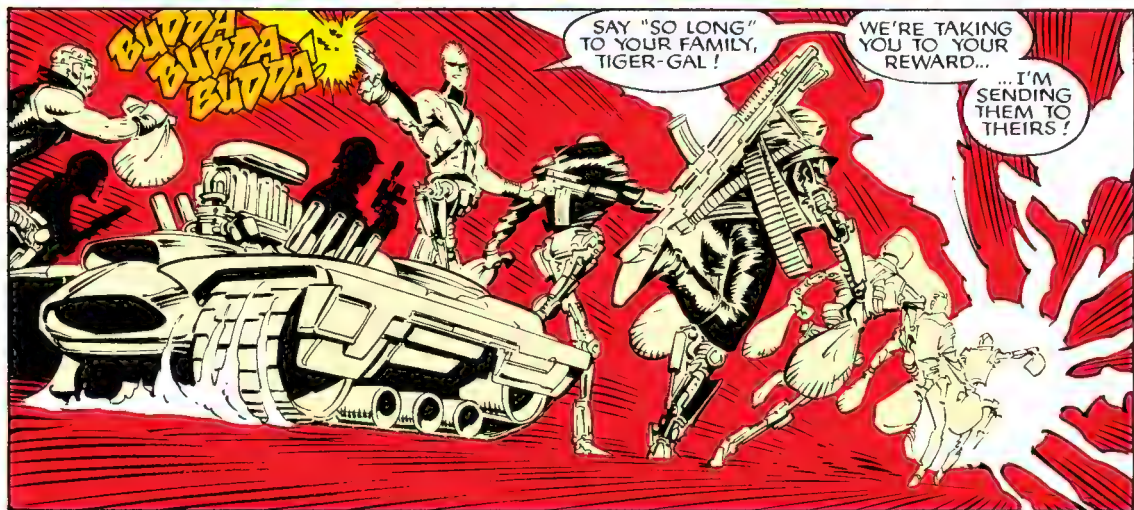
FINANCIAL WIZ, PAR EXCELLENCE.

KLAKT

JUST WHAT THE DOC ORDERED.

THOUGH, THE WAY SHE'S STRUGGLIN'...

... "TIGER" MIGHT BE A BETTER NAME.

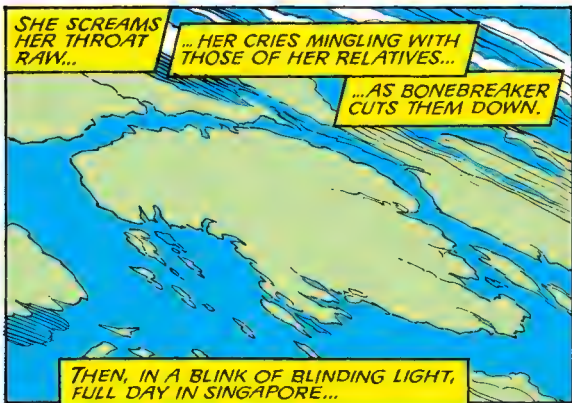


BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA!

SAY "SO LONG" TO YOUR FAMILY, TIGER-GAL!

WE'RE TAKING YOU TO YOUR REWARD...

... I'M SENDING THEM TO THEIRS!

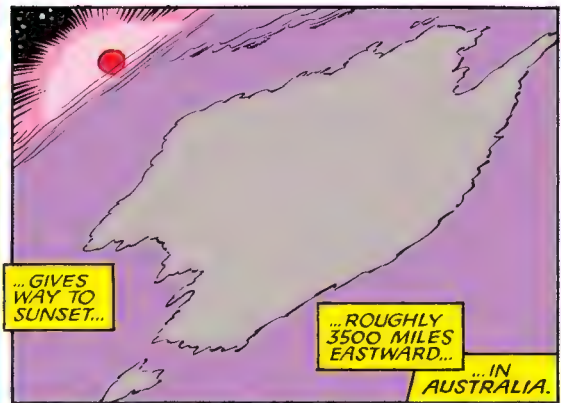


SHE SCREAMS
HER THROAT
RAW...

... HER CRIES MINGLING WITH
THOSE OF HER RELATIVES...

...AS BONEBREAKER
CUTS THEM DOWN.

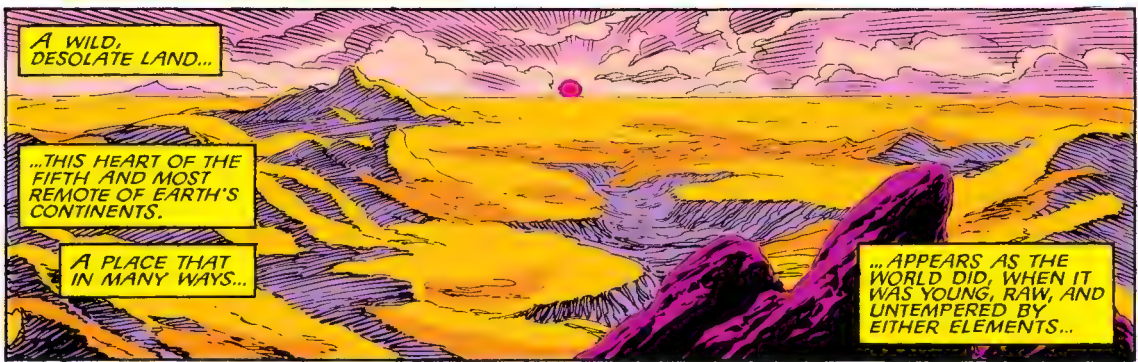
THEN, IN A BLINK OF BLINDING LIGHT,
FULL DAY IN SINGAPORE...



...GIVES
WAY TO
SUNSET...

...ROUGHLY
3500 MILES
EASTWARD...

...IN
AUSTRALIA.

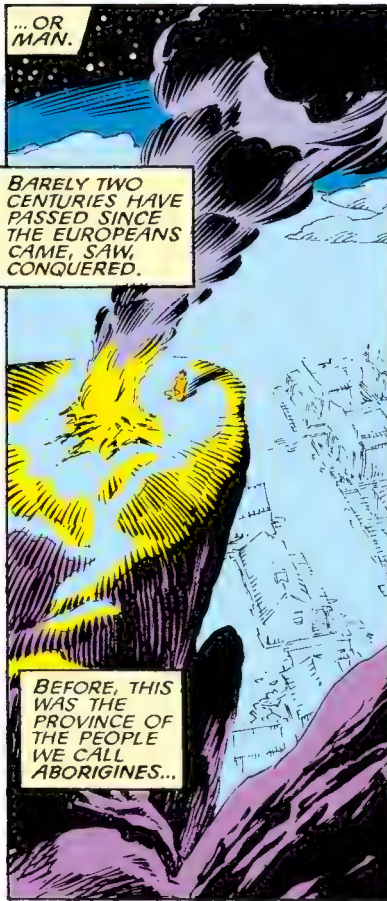


A WILD,
DESOLATE LAND...

...THIS HEART OF THE
FIFTH AND MOST
REMOTE OF EARTH'S
CONTINENTS.

A PLACE THAT
IN MANY WAYS...

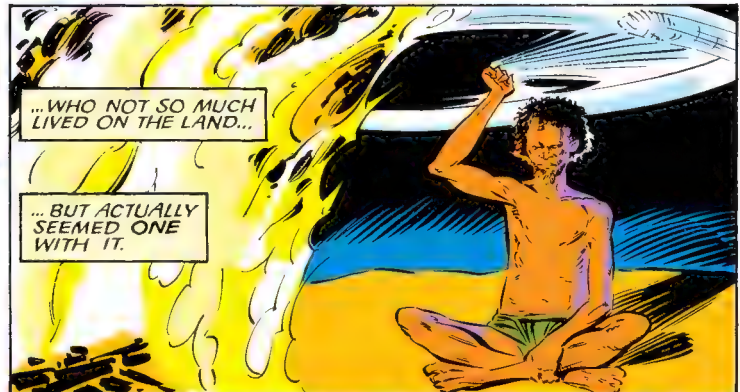
...APPEARS AS THE
WORLD DID, WHEN IT
WAS YOUNG, RAW, AND
UNTEMPERED BY
EITHER ELEMENTS...



... OR
MAN.

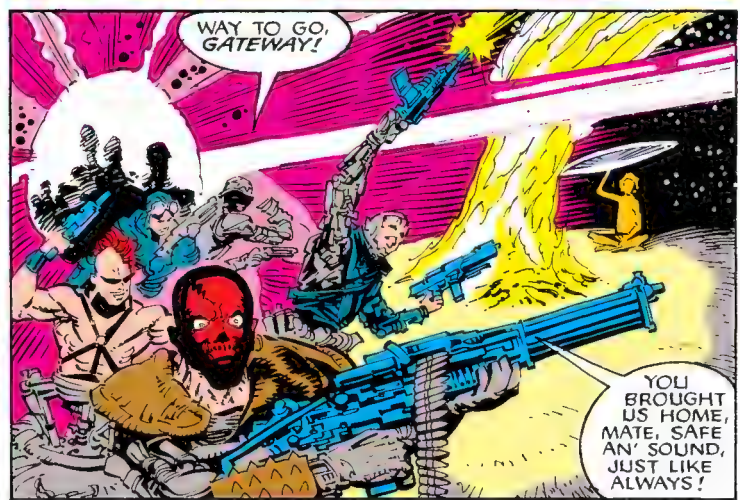
BARELY TWO
CENTURIES HAVE
PASSED SINCE
THE EUROPEANS
CAME, SAW,
CONQUERED.

BEFORE, THIS
WAS THE
PROVINCE OF
THE PEOPLE
WE CALL
ABORIGINES...



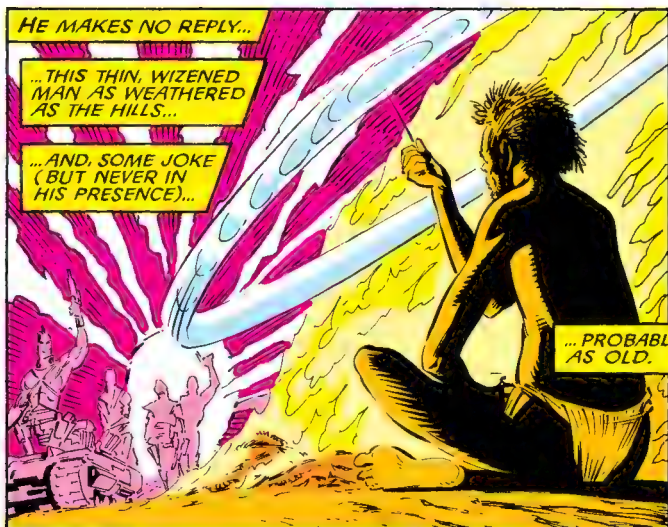
... WHO NOT SO MUCH
LIVED ON THE LAND...

... BUT ACTUALLY
SEEMED ONE
WITH IT.



WAY TO GO,
GATEWAY!

YOU
BROUGHT
US HOME,
MATE, SAFE
AN' SOUND,
JUST LIKE
ALWAYS!

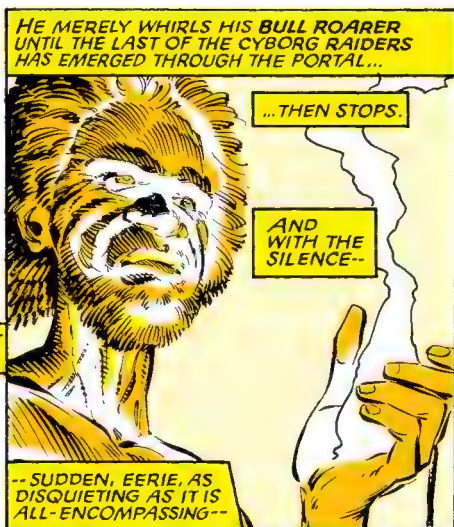


HE MAKES NO REPLY...

...THIS THIN, WIZENED MAN AS WEATHERED AS THE HILLS...

...AND, SOME JOKE (BUT NEVER IN HIS PRESENCE)...

...PROBABLY AS OLD.

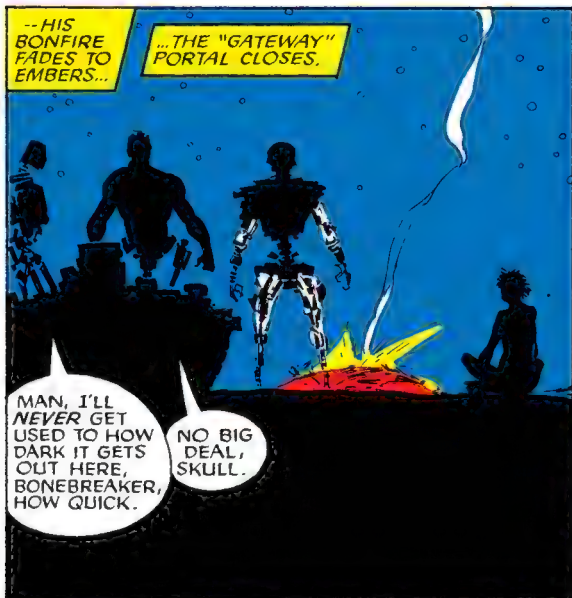


HE MERELY WHIRLS HIS BULL ROARER UNTIL THE LAST OF THE CYBORG RAIDERS HAS EMERGED THROUGH THE PORTAL...

...THEN STOPS.

AND WITH THE SILENCE--

--SUDDEN, EERIE, AS DISQUIETING AS IT IS ALL-ENCOMPASSING--

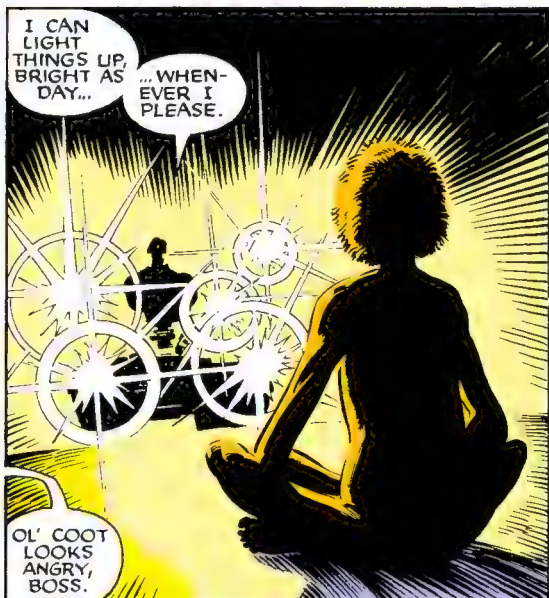


--HIS BONFIRE FADES TO EMBERS...

...THE "GATEWAY" PORTAL CLOSES.

MAN, I'LL NEVER GET USED TO HOW DARK IT GETS OUT HERE, BONEBREAKER, HOW QUICK.

NO BIG DEAL, SKULL.



I CAN LIGHT THINGS UP, BRIGHT AS DAY...

...WHENEVER I PLEASE.

OL' COOT LOOKS ANGRY, BOSS.



DON'T MIND.

HE CAN LOOK ANY WHICH WAY HE PLEASES...

...SO LONG AS HE DOES WHAT HE'S TOLD.

BUT MARK ME, GATEWAY--

--ANY FUNNY STUFF, AN' THE REAVERS'LL TRASH YOUR HOLY PLACE BEYOND ALL HOPE O' RECONSECRATION--



--AN' THEN, YOUR PEOPLE WILL NEVER KNOW PEACE.

THEY'LL WANDER THE DREAMLANDS, SLAVE TO OUTSIGN SPIRITS, TO THE END OF TIME AN' BEYOND!

AFTER EVERY CAPER,
THERE'S ALWAYS A PARTY.

TONIGHT'S
NO DIFFERENT.

WITHIN
AN HOUR
OF THE
REAVERS'
RETURN...

...EVERYBODY'S
HAPPY.

THEY PLAY
AS HARD AS
THEY FIGHT...

...WITH NO
RULES...

SNAP!

...NOT FAR AWAY, UNDERGROUND...

POW!
POW!

...AND
LESS MERCY.

BUT WHILE THESE FESTIVITIES
RAGE EVER MORE WILDLY
OUT OF CONTROL...

WHERE
AM I?!

WHAT IS THIS
PLACE??!

OUR HIDE-
OUT, OF
COURSE.

AND SINCE WE
LOOTED YOUR
TREASURE VAULT,
LITTLE TIGER...

...IT
SEEMS
ONLY
POLITE
TO SHOW
YOU
OURS.

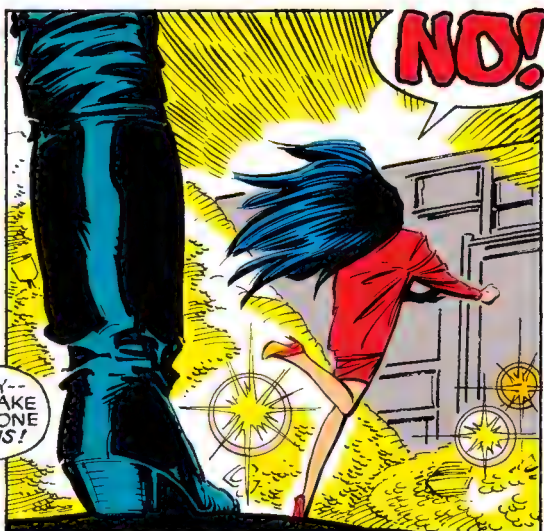
Gasp!?!?



BUT WHY
BRING ME
HERE?!

WHAT DO YOU
WANT WITH
ME???

WHY--
TO MAKE
YOU ONE
OF US!



NO!



PROTEST
ALL YOU
WISH...

... IT WON'T
MAKE A
WHIT OF
DIFFERENCE.

PLEASE
DON'T
PLEASE
NO PLEASE

YOU SEE--WE
HAVE ALL THIS
BOOTY...

... BUT
NOWHERE,
NO WAY, TO
SPEND IT.

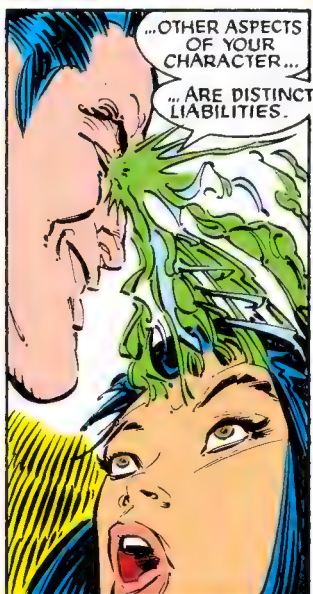
WHAT WE
REQUIRE IS
A FINANCIAL
WIZARD--

--THAT'S
YOU--



--TO PUT IT
TO GOOD AND
PROFITABLE
USE.

HOWEVER,
WHILE YOUR
BANKING SKILLS
ARE AN ASSET...



...OTHER ASPECTS
OF YOUR
CHARACTER...

... ARE DISTINCT
LIABILITIES.



INCONVENIENT ELEMENTS SUCH
AS A SENSE OF MORALITY,
SCRUPLES, DECENCY.



SO, I'M
GOING TO
ERASE
THEM.



REPLACE THEM
WITH AN ATTITUDE
MORE IN KEEPING
WITH YOUR NEW
LIFE AS A REAVER.

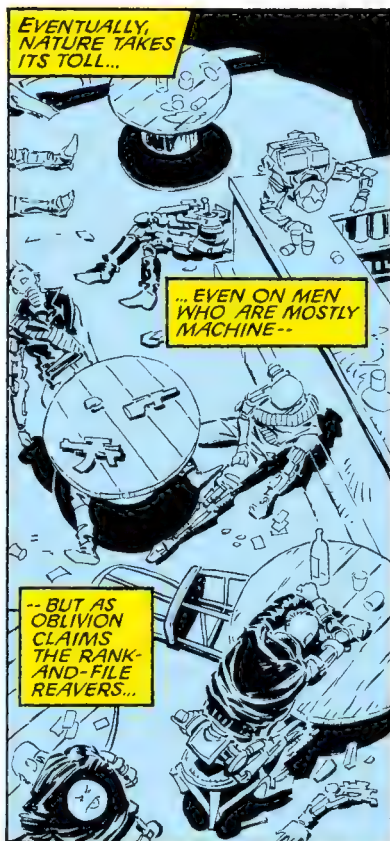
INSTANT
PSYCHIC RE-
PROGRAMMING.

LIKE BEING
REBORN--

NO MUSS,
NO FUSS,
PRESTO-
CHANGEDO--

-- A
WHOLE
NEW
YOU!

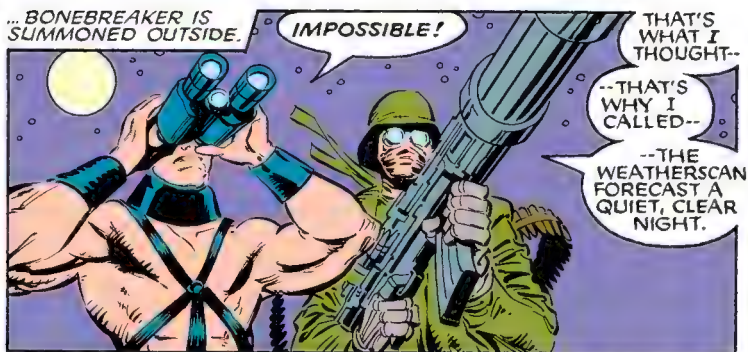
ISN'T
THAT
NICE?



EVENTUALLY,
NATURE TAKES
ITS TOLL...

...EVEN ON MEN
WHO ARE MOSTLY
MACHINE--

-- BUT AS
OBLIVION
CLAIMS
THE RANK-
AND-FILE
REAVERS...



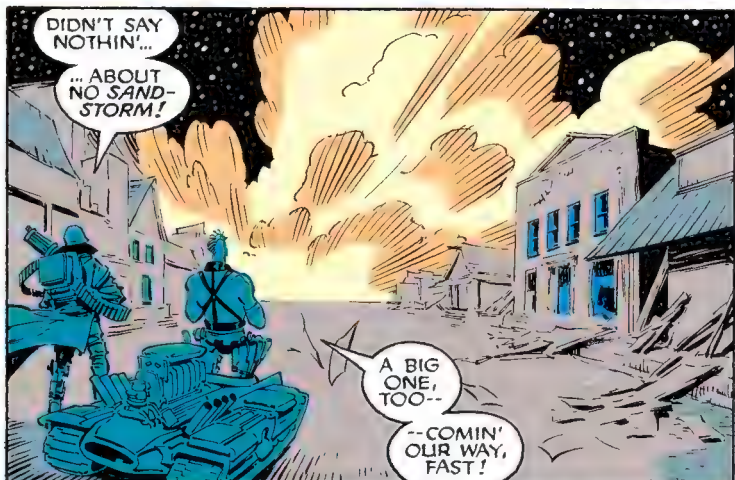
...BONEBREAKER IS
SLIMMONED OUTSIDE.

IMPOSSIBLE!

THAT'S
WHAT I
THOUGHT--

--THAT'S
WHY I
CALLED--

--THE
WEATHERSCAN
FORECAST A
QUIET, CLEAR
NIGHT.

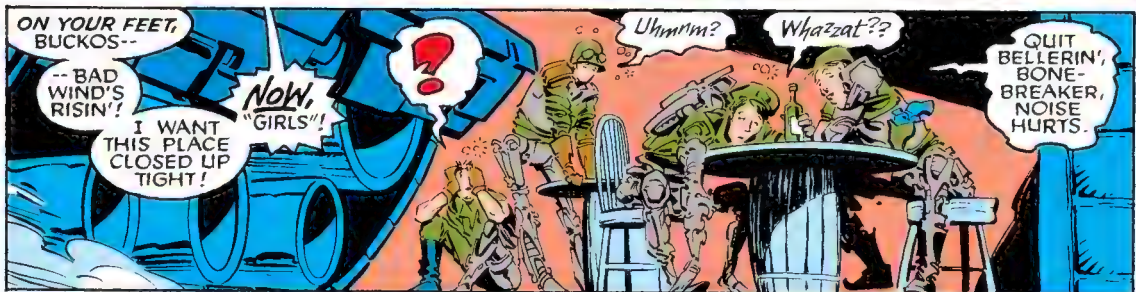


DIDN'T SAY
NOTHIN'...

... ABOUT
NO SAND-
STORM!

A BIG
ONE,
TOO--

--COMIN'
OUR WAY,
FAST!



ON YOUR FEET,
BUCKOS--

-- BAD
WIND'S
RISIN'!

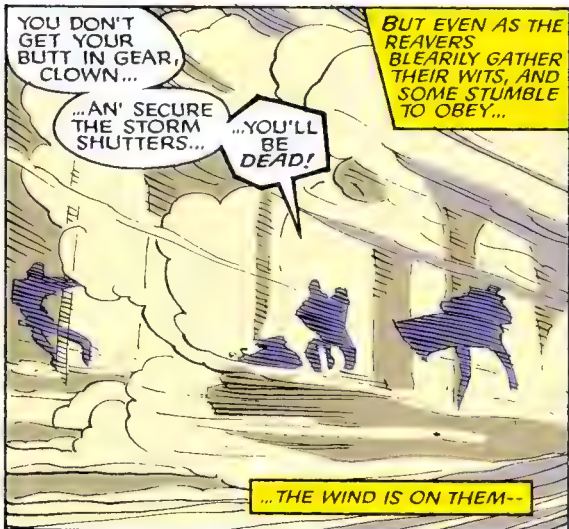
I WANT
THIS PLACE
CLOSED UP
TIGHT!

NOW,
"GIRLS"!

Uhhmm?

Whazzat??

QUIT
BELLERIN',
BONE-
BREAKER,
NOISE
HURTS.



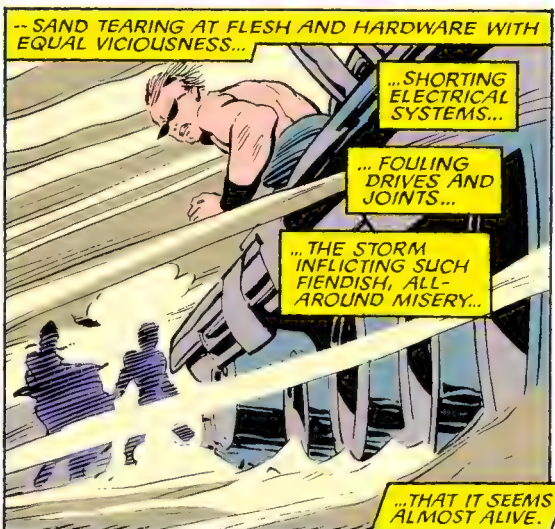
YOU DON'T
GET YOUR
BUTT IN GEAR,
CLOWN...

...AN' SECURE
THE STORM
SHUTTERS...

...YOU'LL
BE
DEAD!

BUT EVEN AS THE
REAVERS
BLEARILY GATHER
THEIR WITS, AND
SOME STUMBLE
TO OBEY...

...THE WIND IS ON THEM--



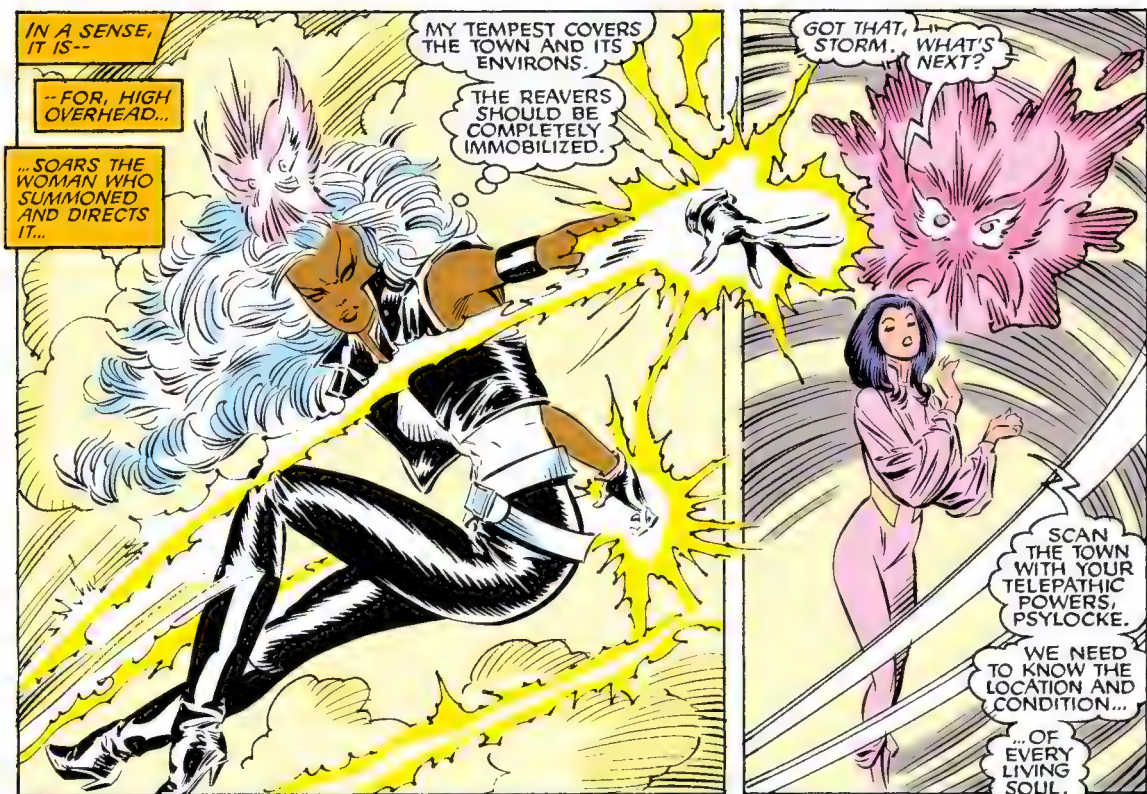
-- SAND TEARING AT FLESH AND HARDWARE WITH
EQUAL VICIOUSNESS...

...SHORTING
ELECTRICAL
SYSTEMS...

...FOULING
DRIVES AND
JOINTS...

...THE STORM
INFLECTING SUCH
FIENDISH, ALL-
AROUND MISERY...

...THAT IT SEEMS
ALMOST ALIVE.



IN A SENSE, IT IS--

--FOR, HIGH OVERHEAD...

...SOARS THE WOMAN WHO SUMMONED AND DIRECTS IT...

MY TEMPEST COVERS THE TOWN AND ITS ENVIRONS.

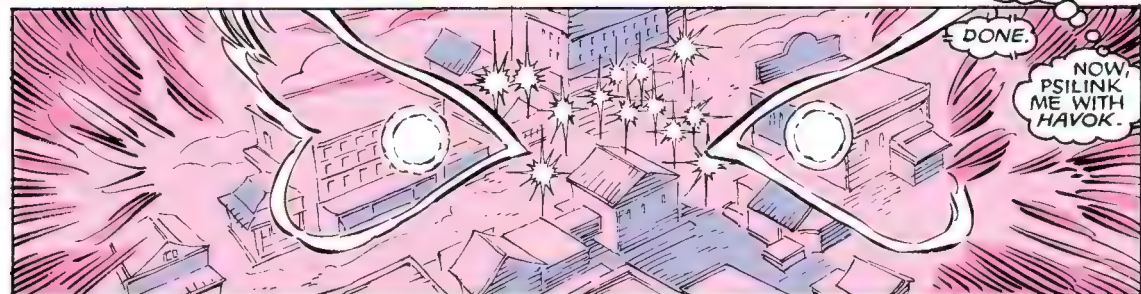
THE REAVERS SHOULD BE COMPLETELY IMMOBILIZED.

GOT THAT, STORM. WHAT'S NEXT?

SCAN THE TOWN WITH YOUR TELEPATHIC POWERS, PSYLOCKE.

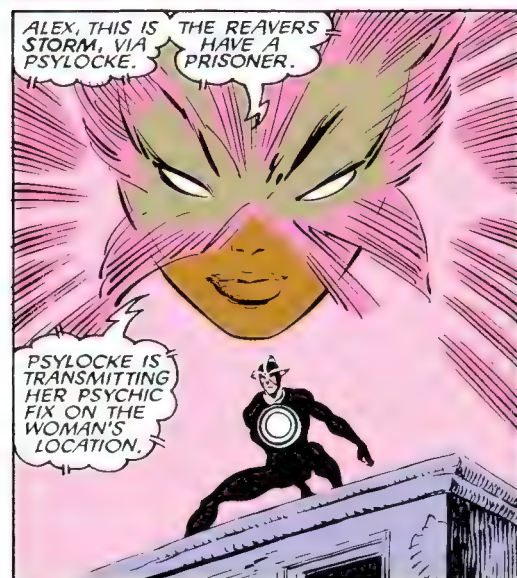
WE NEED TO KNOW THE LOCATION AND CONDITION...

...OF EVERY LIVING SOUL.



DONE.

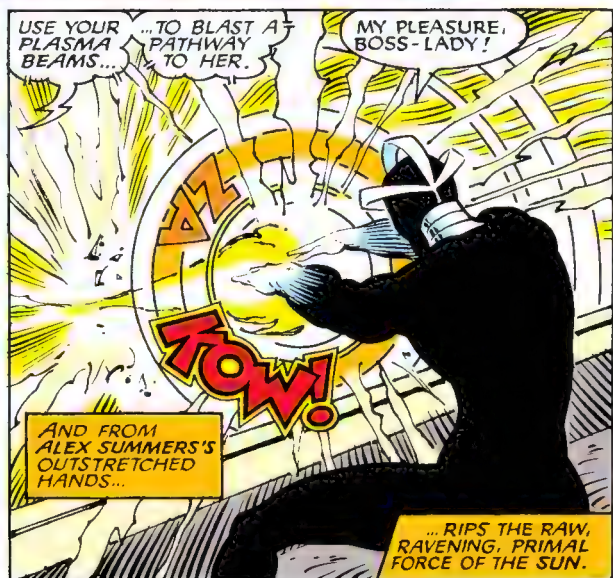
NOW, PSILINK ME WITH HAVOK.



ALEX, THIS IS STORM, VIA PSYLOCKE.

THE REAVERS HAVE A PRISONER.

PSYLOCKE IS TRANSMITTING HER PSYCHIC FIX ON THE WOMAN'S LOCATION.



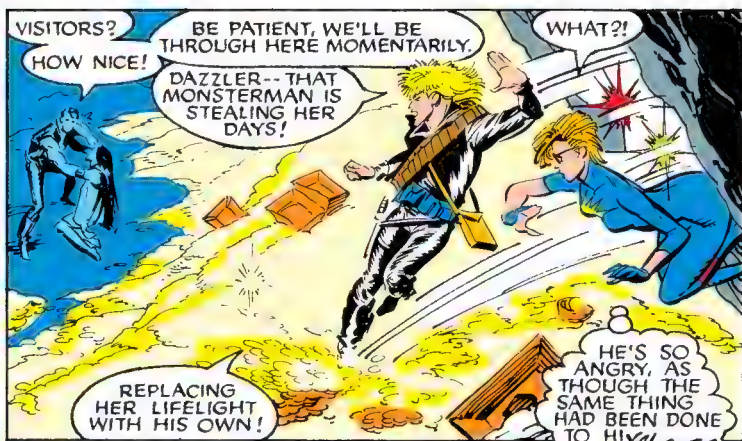
USE YOUR PLASMA BEAMS...

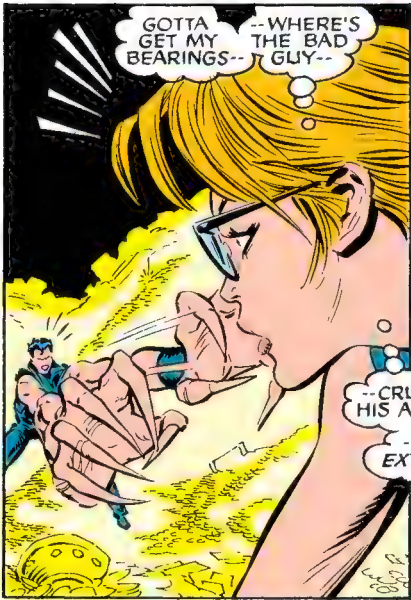
...TO BLAST A PATHWAY TO HER.

MY PLEASURE, BOSS-LADY!

AND FROM ALEX SUMMERS'S OUTSTRETCHED HANDS...

...RIPS THE RAW, RAVENING, PRIMAL FORCE OF THE SUN.

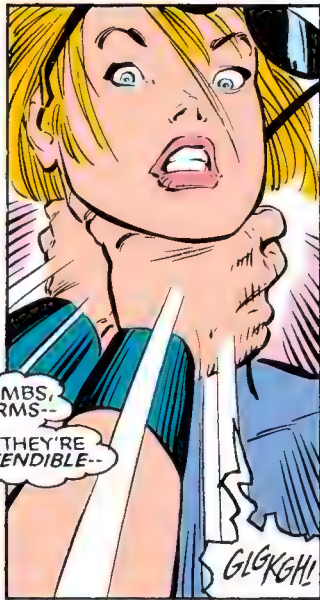




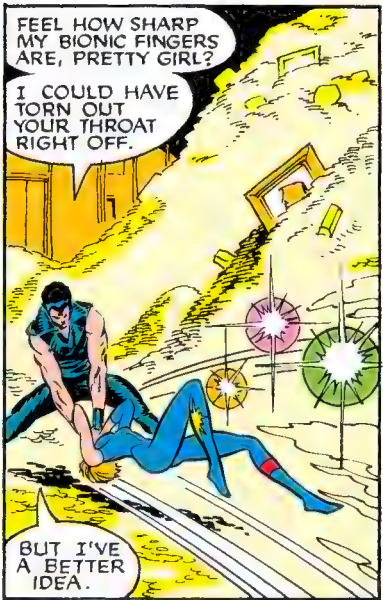
GOTTA GET MY BEARINGS--

--WHERE'S THE BAD GUY--

--CRUMBS, HIS ARMS--
--THEY'RE EXTENDIBLE--



GLKGLK!



FEEL HOW SHARP MY BIONIC FINGERS ARE, PRETTY GIRL?

I COULD HAVE TORN OUT YOUR THROAT RIGHT OFF.

BUT I'VE A BETTER IDEA.

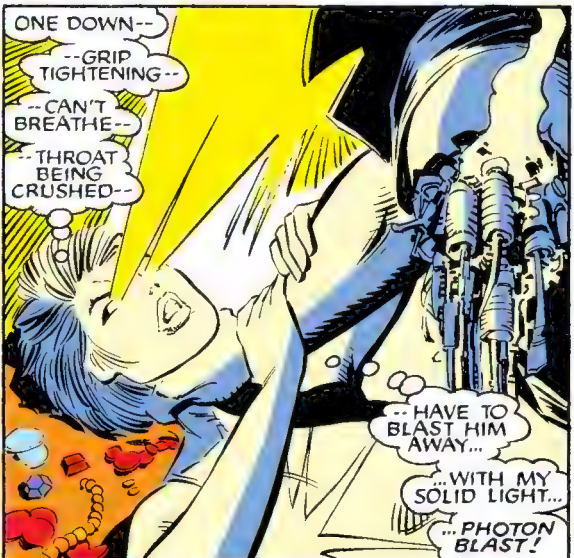


"BIONIC"--
--THAT MEANS THE ARMS ARE ARTIFICIAL!

MAYBE A LASER SHOT--

--CAN CUT ME LOOSE!

ZARK!



ONE DOWN--
--GRIP TIGHTENING--

--CAN'T BREATHE--

--THROAT BEING CRUSHED--

--HAVE TO BLAST HIM AWAY...

...WITH MY SOLID LIGHT...

...PHOTON BLAST!



VERY IMPRESSIVE, PRETTY GIRL.

YOU'RE STRONGER THAN YOU LOOK...

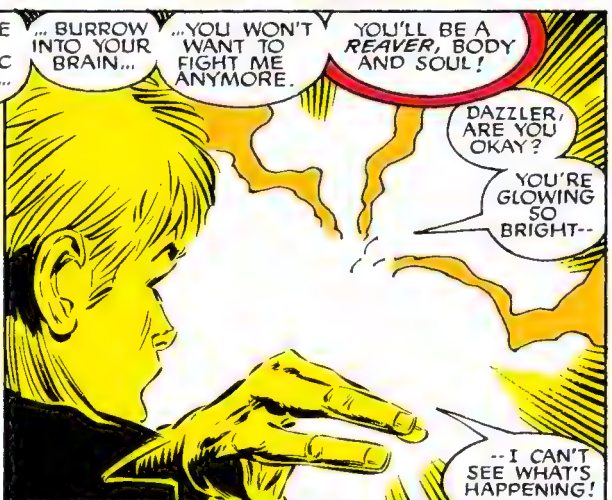
...BUT I'M TOUGHER.

AND ONCE THESE FIBER-OPTIC FILAMENTS...

...BURROW INTO YOUR BRAIN...

...YOU WON'T WANT TO FIGHT ME ANYMORE.

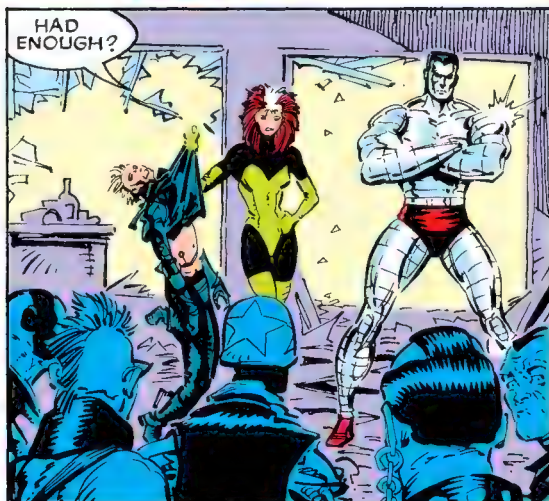
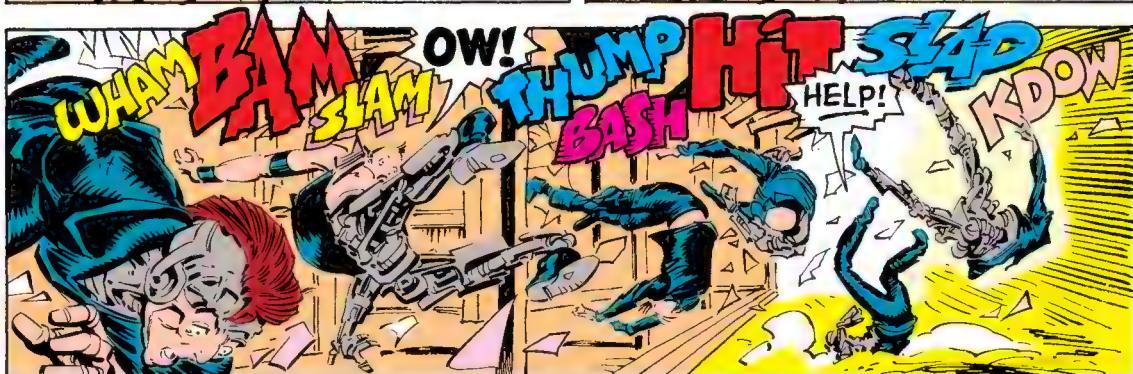
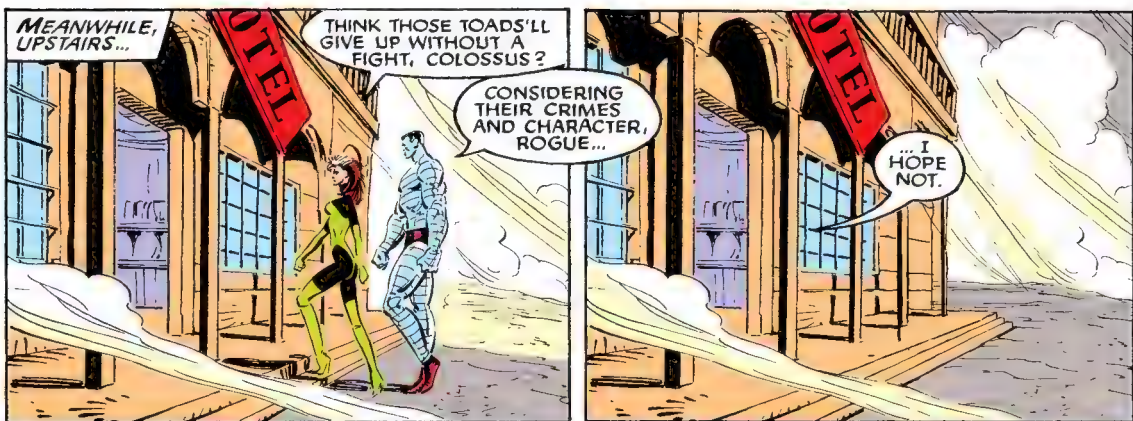
YOU'LL BE A REAPER, BODY AND SOUL!

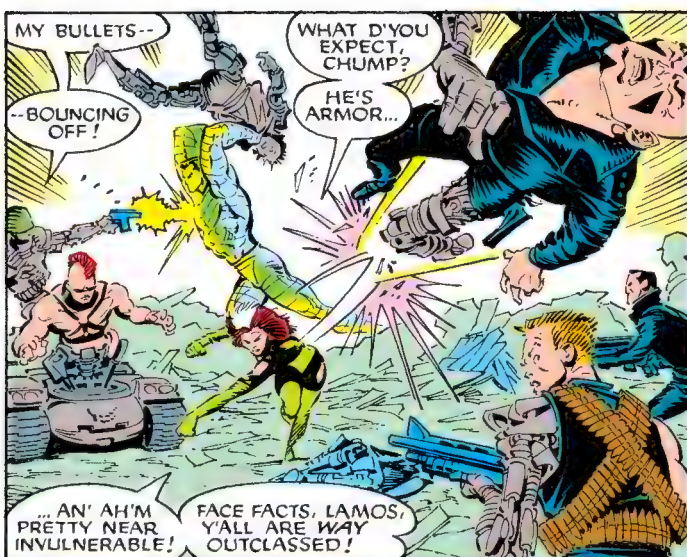


DAZZLER, ARE YOU OKAY?

YOU'RE GLOWING SO BRIGHT--

--I CAN'T SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING!





MY BULLETS--
--BOUNCING
OFF!

WHAT D'YOU
EXPECT,
CHUMP?
HE'S
ARMOR...

...AN' AH'M
PRETTY NEAR
INVULNERABLE!
FACE FACTS, LAMOS,
Y'ALL ARE WAY
OUTCLASSED!



WE'LL SEE HOW
SMART YOU
TALK, BIMBO...
... AFTER
I TEAR
YOU :-

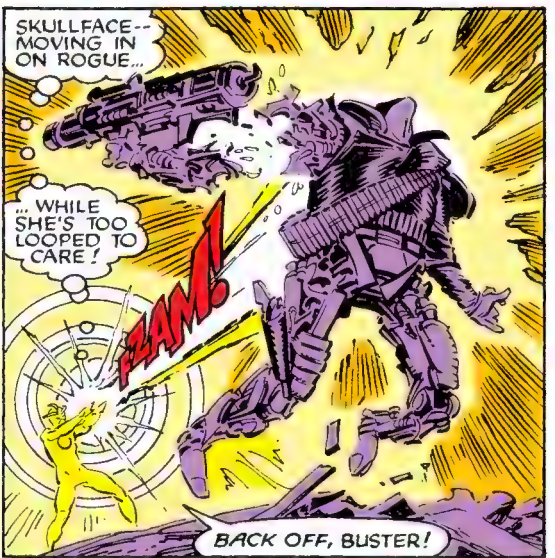
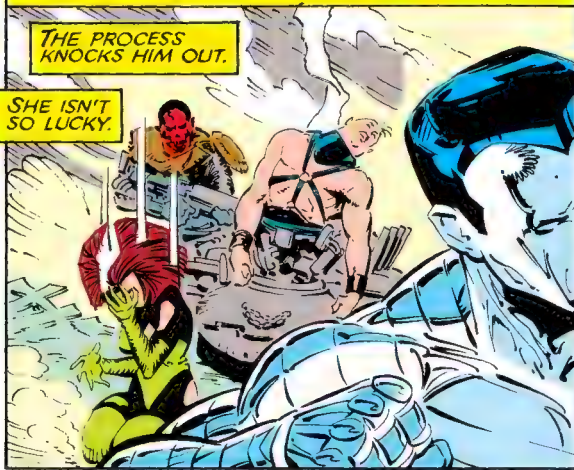
LORDY--
NO!

ROGUE'S
STRENGTH ISN'T
WHAT MAKES HER
A MUTANT.

IT'S THE POWER TO ABSORB OTHER PEOPLE'S PSYCHE
AND ABILITIES. THE MOMENT BONEBREAKER GRABS
HER-- HIS HAND ON HER BARE ARM-- SHE'S INSTANTLY
FLOODED WITH THE TOTALITY OF HIS BEING.

THE PROCESS
KNOCKS HIM OUT.

SHE ISN'T
SO LUCKY.



SKULLFACE--
MOVING IN
ON ROGUE...

... WHILE
SHE'S TOO
LOOPED TO
CARE!

BACK OFF, BUSTER!



IT'S
CLEAR
THESE
BOZOS
ARE
MOSTLY
ROBOTS...

... BUT IT STILL GIVES
ME THE CREEPS WHEN
I BLAST 'EM LIKE THAT.

CAN'T HELP
ME WONDERING
IF IT HURTS.

HOW YOU
DOIN',
PARTNER?

THOUGHTS--
MEM'RIES--
FOULEST
KIND--

--WHERE
IS THAT
SCUNGE-
BARGE--

--BONE-
BREAKER,
AH WANT
YOUR
HEART!



STILL BREATHIN'-- SCAN-
STATS MOSTLY GREEN--

-- GONNA ASSUME
YOU'LL RECOVER.

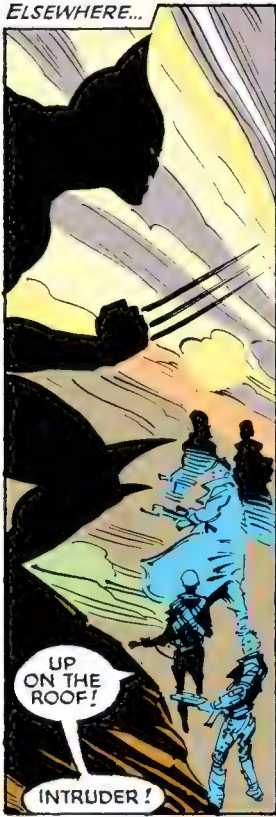
TIME TO
SCAMPER, BONE.

WE'RE DONE
HERE...

...HAVETA
START
AGAIN...

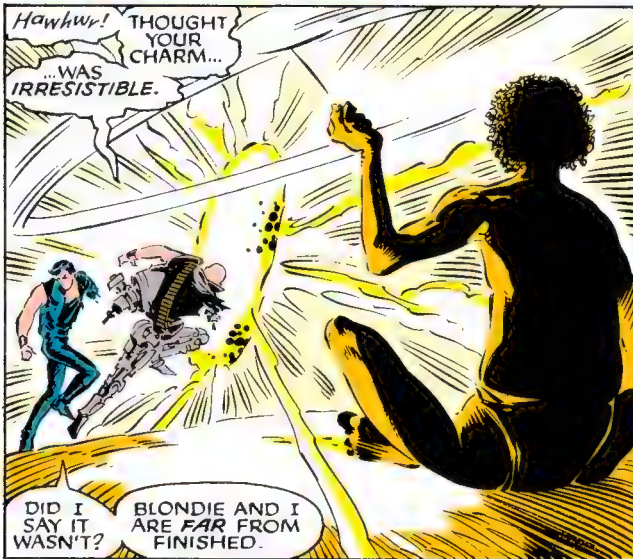
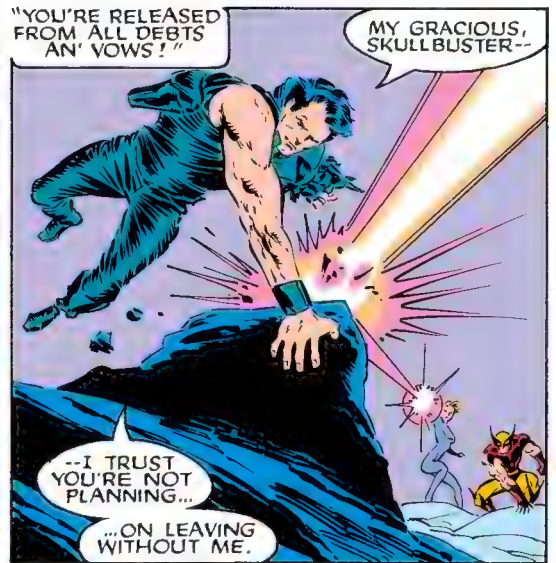
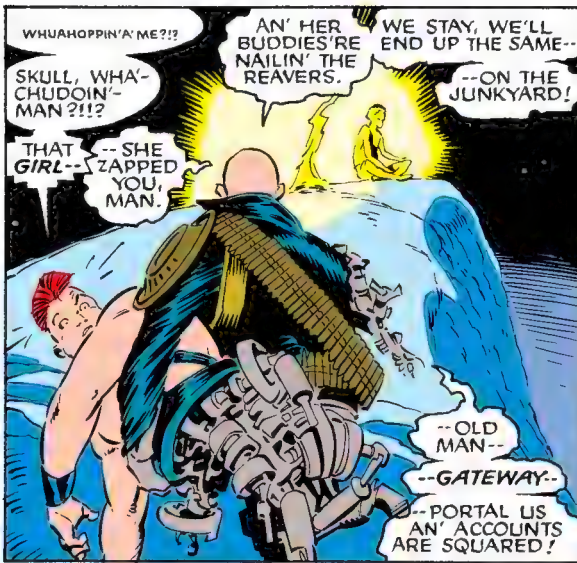
... SOMEPLACE
ELSE.

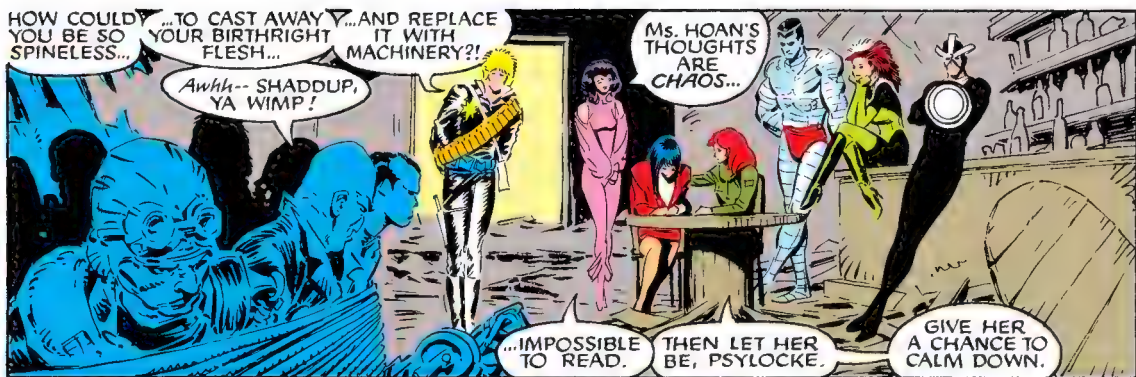
ELSEWHERE...

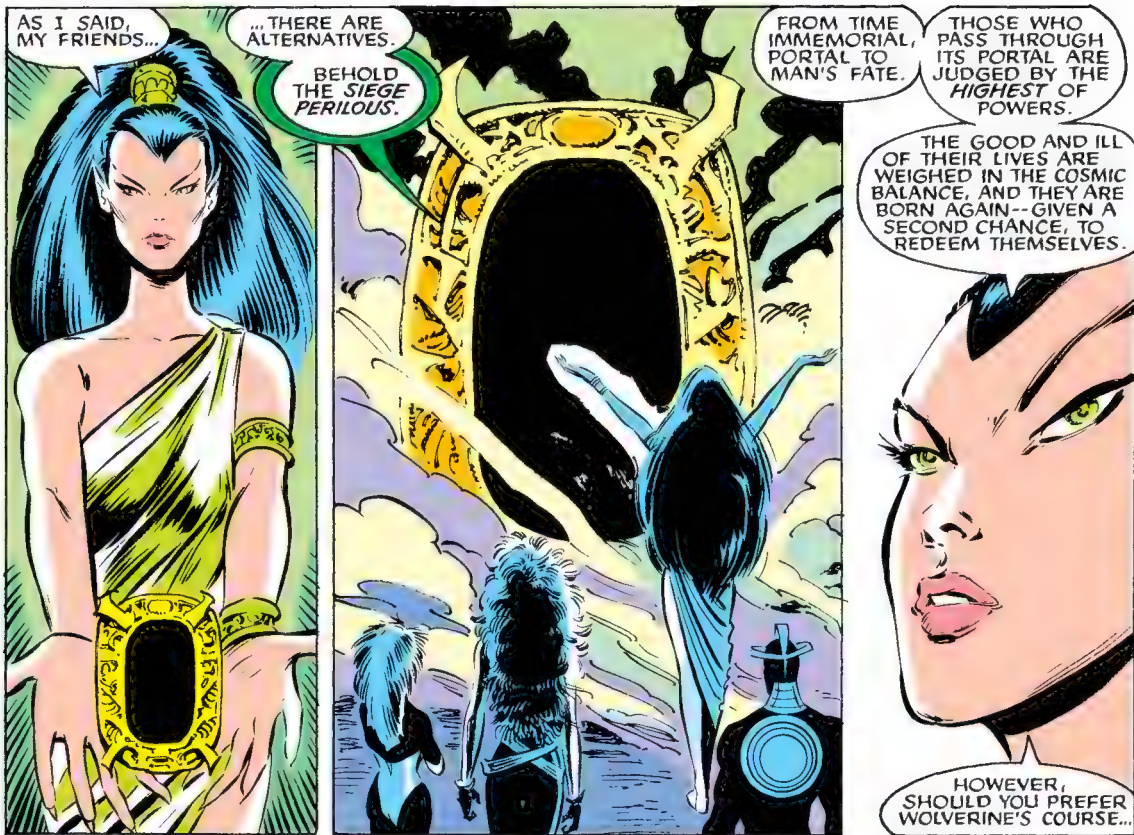


THEY DO
THEIR BEST.









AS I SAID, MY FRIENDS...

...THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES.

BEHOLD THE SIEGE PERILOUS.

FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, PORTAL TO MAN'S FATE.

THOSE WHO PASS THROUGH ITS PORTAL ARE JUDGED BY THE HIGHEST OF POWERS.

THE GOOD AND ILL OF THEIR LIVES ARE WEIGHED IN THE COSMIC BALANCE, AND THEY ARE BORN AGAIN--GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE, TO REDEEM THEMSELVES.

HOWEVER, SHOULD YOU PREFER WOLVERINE'S COURSE...



...THEIRS WILL BE THE **TRUE DEATH**, THEIR SPIRITS IRREPARABLY SHATTERED AND CAST INTO THE ULTIMATE VOID.

I CONFESS, ROMA, WHAT YOU'RE SAYING MAKES NO SENSE TO ME...

...BUT WHAT ARE WE AFTER HERE, PEOPLE--WHAT'S OUR TRUE PURPOSE--

--JUSTICE OR VENGEANCE?!



SOMETIMES, BOY, VENGEANCE IS JUSTICE.

THE REAVERS SHOWED NO MERCY, WHY SHOULD WE?



BECAUSE, PSYLOCKE, WE ARE NOT THEM.



WE HAVE ENDURED SO MUCH THESE PAST MONTHS, X-MEN-- IF WE HAVE LEARNED NOTHING FROM OUR EXPERIENCES, WE DO NOT DESERVE THE SECOND CHANCE WE NOW POSSESS.

REAVERS, I OFFER A CHOICE:

...THE SIEGE PERILOUS...

...OR WOLVERINE.

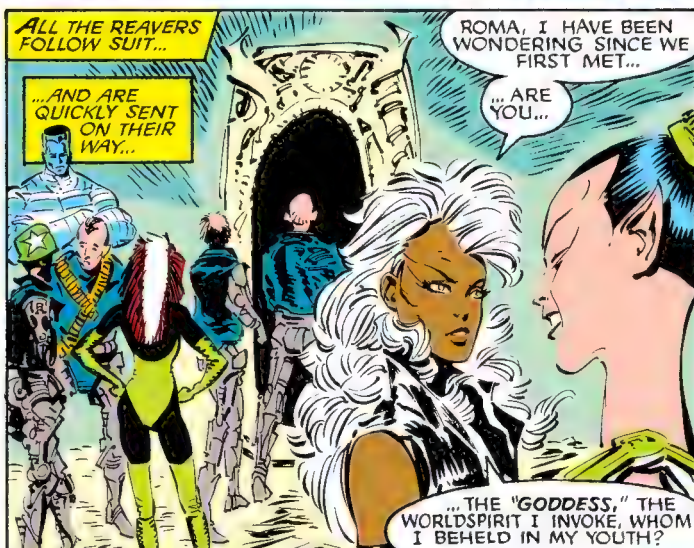


THAT'S A CHOICE?

BONEBREAKER DUMPED US, SAVED HIS OWN HIDE, WE OWE HIM NOTHIN'!

I WANNA LIVE, LADY, ANY WAY I CAN.

I'LL TAKE THE SIEGE.



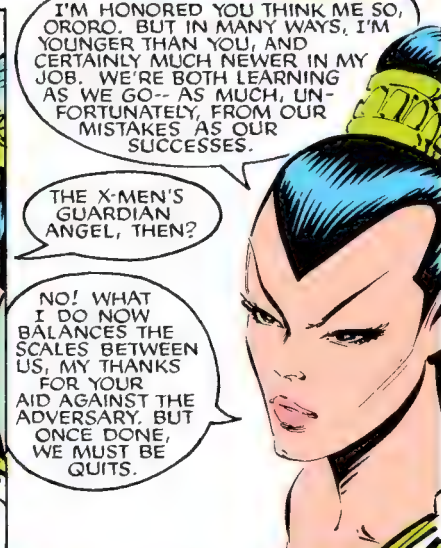
ALL THE REAVERS FOLLOW SUIT...

...AND ARE QUICKLY SENT ON THEIR WAY...

ROMA, I HAVE BEEN WONDERING SINCE WE FIRST MET...

...ARE YOU...

...THE "GODDESS," THE WORLDSPIRIT I INVOKE, WHOM I BEHELD IN MY YOUTH?



I'M HONORED YOU THINK ME SO, ORORO. BUT IN MANY WAYS, I'M YOUNGER THAN YOU, AND CERTAINLY MUCH NEWER IN MY JOB. WE'RE BOTH LEARNING AS WE GO-- AS MUCH, UNFORTUNATELY, FROM OUR MISTAKES AS OUR SUCCESSSES.

THE X-MEN'S GUARDIAN ANGEL, THEN?

NO! WHAT I DO NOW BALANCES THE SCALES BETWEEN US, MY THANKS FOR YOUR AID AGAINST THE ADVERSARY. BUT ONCE DONE, WE MUST BE QUITS.



I AM THE GUARDIAN OF THE OMNIVERSE. I HAVE TOO MUCH TO CARE FOR TO CONCENTRATE-- HOWEVER MUCH I MIGHT DESIRE OTHERWISE-- ON ANY ONE CORNER OF REALITY.

TO DO SO WOULD PLACE UNENDURABLE STRAINS ON THE WHOLE CONTINUUM, AND IT HAS ALREADY SUFFERED ENOUGH.

AFTER YOU, STANLEY.

NO, NO, OLLIE, YOU FIRST.



NO!

I CAN'T! PLEASE, DON'T MAKE ME! I WON'T GO THROUGH THAT AWFUL DOORWAY!

Ms. HOAN --?!

IT ISN'T FAIR, I'M NOT ONE OF THEM--

-- WHY MUST I BE PUNISHED?!



DON'T CRY, YOU'LL BE FINE, WE'LL KEEP YOU SAFE.

LADY HAS A POINT. SHE'S A VICTIM, SHE DOESN'T DESERVE TO SHARE THE REAVERS' FATE.



BUT HOW CAN WE RELEASE HER, KNOWING WHAT SHE DOES?

MAYBE, SOMETIMES, WE HAVE TO TRUST PEOPLE.

IF WE SACRIFICE AN INNOCENT-- NO MATTER HOW NOBLE OR NECESSARY OUR RATIONALIZATION-- THEN WE'VE BECOME WHAT WE'VE SWORN TO FIGHT.

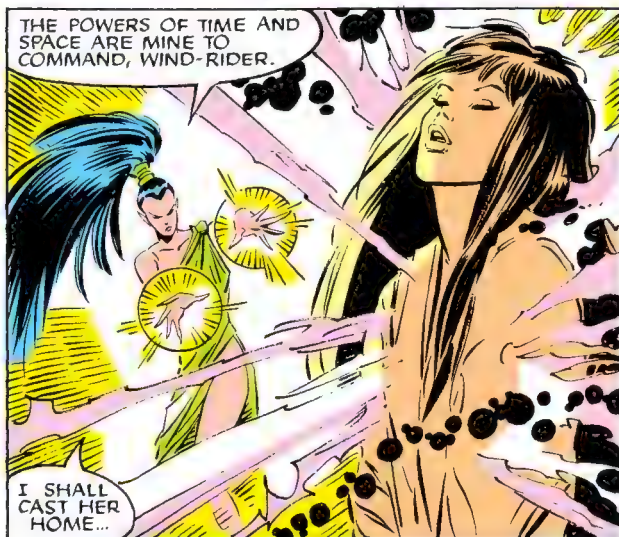


HAVOK IS RIGHT.

THE RISK MUST BE TAKEN.

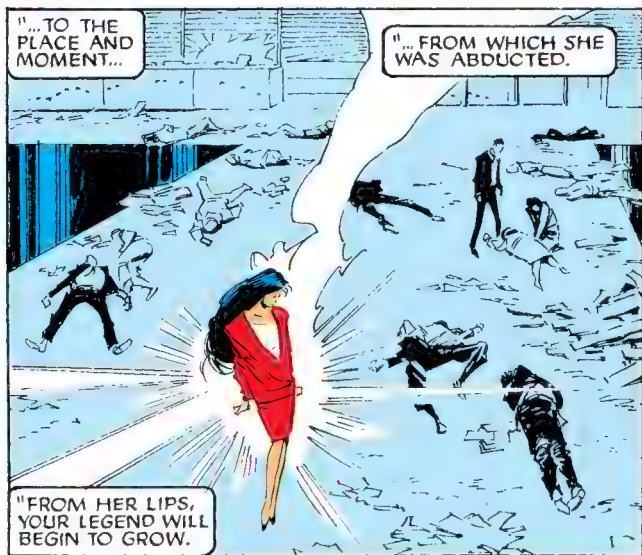
ROMA, FORGIVE ME FOR ASKING...

...BUT IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN HELP?



THE POWERS OF TIME AND SPACE ARE MINE TO COMMAND, WIND-RIDER.

I SHALL CAST HER HOME...



"...TO THE PLACE AND MOMENT..."

"...FROM WHICH SHE WAS ABDUCTED."

"FROM HER LIPS, YOUR LEGEND WILL BEGIN TO GROW."



KNOW, X-MEN, THAT THE SIEGE PERILOUS IS FOR YOUR USE AS WELL. AS AVALON WAS FOR KING ARTHUR, SO MAY THE SIEGE BE FOR YOU.

A RELEASE FROM THE TRIALS AND TREVAILS OF THIS WORLD...

... GATEWAY TO A PARADISE WELL EARNED...

... IF SUCH IS YOUR DESIRE.



WHAT THEN OF THE **DREAM**-- OUR TEACHER, PROFESSOR XAVIER'S DREAM-- THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER...

...AND NOW, MORE THAN EVER, GIVES OUR LIVES MEANING?

YOU CALL US "HEROES" AND "LEGENDS." TO ME, ROMA, THOSE ARE LABELS, WITH LITTLE MEANING. ANOTHER PERSON'S DESCRIPTION OF ME, NOT MY OWN.

I AM **PIOTR NIKOLIEVITCH RASPUTIN**-- I AM **COLOSSUS**-- I AM AN **X-MAN**. THAT IS IMPORTANT. THAT IS WHAT MATTERS.

AND WHILE I BREATHE, I WILL FIGHT WITH ALL MY HEART FOR XAVIER'S DREAM, AND THE BETTER WORLD IT REPRESENTS!



MY "LITTLE BROTHER" SPEAKS FOR US ALL, I THINK, ROMA.

SAVE YOUR **SIEGE** PERILOUS FOR ANOTHER TIME.



WE ARE FAR FROM DONE WITH OURS.

SO BE IT.



BUT YOUR "DEATH," X-MEN, WAS MORE THAN MERE HYPERBOLE.

IN A SENSE, YOU STAND APART FROM LIFE.



YOU CANNOT BE DETECTED BY ANY AGENCY OTHER THAN YOURSELVES-- LIVING OR MECHANICAL, MAGICKAL OR SCIENTIFIC-- NEITHER BEING, NOR POWER, NOR ENCHANTMENT.



YOU MAY BE SEEN BY THE NAKED EYE-- AND BY THE DEVICES OF THIS PLACE, YOUR NEW HOME -- BUT THAT IS ALL.



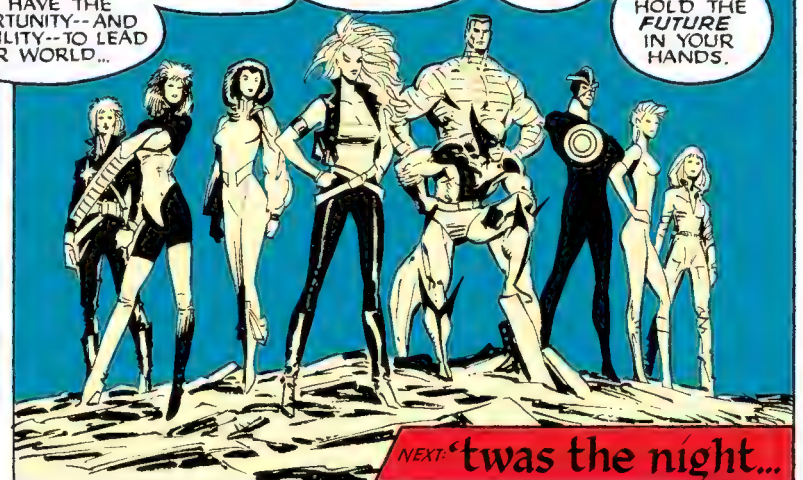
FINALLY, I LEAVE THE **SIEGE** IN YOUR CHARGE, TO BE USED AS YOU WILL.

ONLY THE MOST BRAVE AND MOST WORTHY HAVE BEEN GRANTED SUCH AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY--



--YOU ARE THE FIRST SO CHARGED, SO HONORED, IN OVER A THOUSAND YEARS.

YOU, MY CHILDREN, HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY--AND CAPABILITY--TO LEAD YOUR WORLD...



...TO THE BRIGHTEST... ...OR DARKEST OF DESTINIES.

USE IT WELL.

FOR YOU HOLD THE **FUTURE** IN YOUR HANDS.

NEXT: 'twas the night...



MARVEL

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN



TM

\$1.00 US

\$1.25 CAN

230

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY



SILVESTRI ARUBINSTEIN

STAN LEE
PRESENTS...

'Twas the night...

STARRING THE
UNCANNY X-MEN

SHE IS
STORM...

BRIGHT,
BLESSED
GODDESS--

--I CAN
ONCE MORE

FLY!

...AND THIS
IS HER
REALM.

CHRIS
CLAREMONT
WRITER

MARC
SILVESTRI
PENCILER

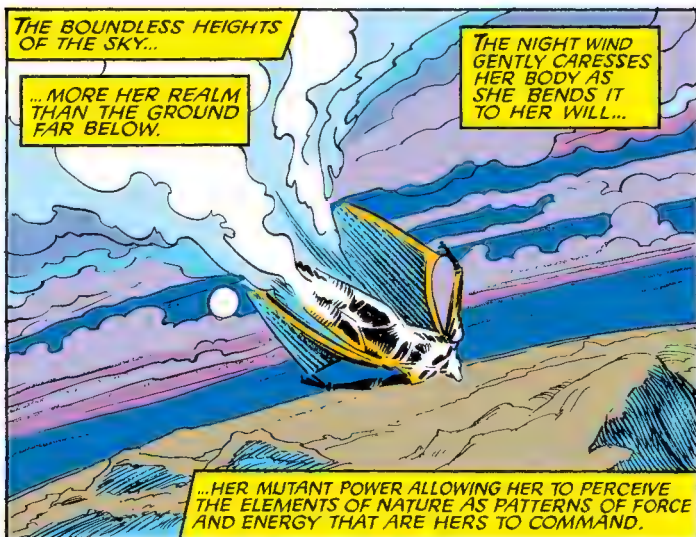
JOE
RUBINSTEIN
INKER

GLYNIS
OLIVER
COLORIST

TOM
ORZECOWSKI
LETTERER

ANN
NOCENTI
EDITOR

TOM
DeFALCO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



THE BOUNDLESS HEIGHTS
OF THE SKY...

...MORE HER REALM
THAN THE GROUND
FAR BELOW.

THE NIGHT WIND
GENTLY CARESSES
HER BODY AS
SHE BENDS IT
TO HER WILL...

...HER MUTANT POWER ALLOWING HER TO PERCEIVE
THE ELEMENTS OF NATURE AS PATTERNS OF FORCE
AND ENERGY THAT ARE HERS TO COMMAND.



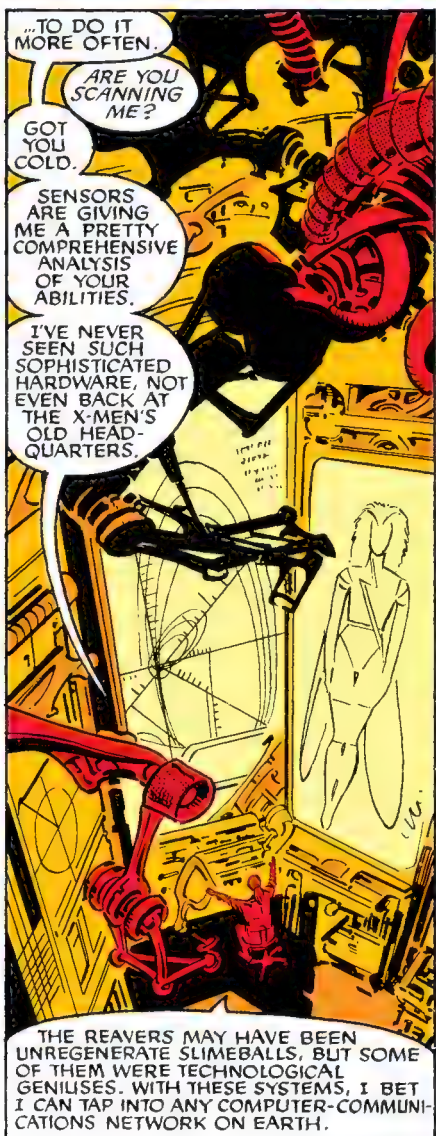
Ahhh, MADELYNE...

...I HAD
ALMOST
FORGOTTEN...

...HOW
GLORIOUS
THIS FELT!

IT'S GOOD
TO HEAR
YOU LAUGH,
ORORO.

I HOPE WE ALL
GET THE CHANCE...



...TO DO IT
MORE OFTEN.

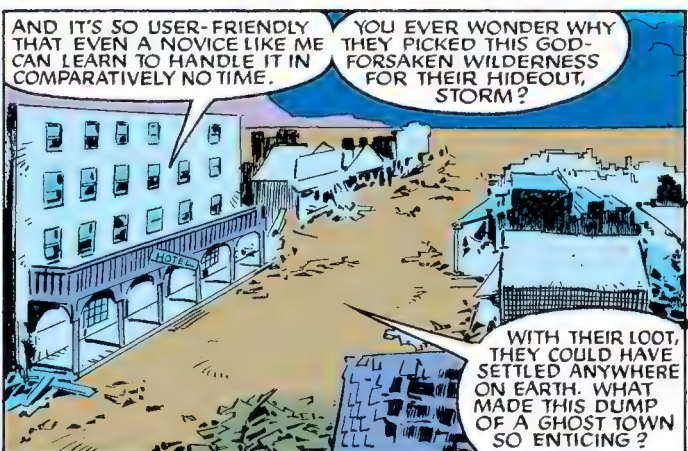
ARE YOU
SCANNING
ME?

GOT
YOU
COLD.

SENSORS
ARE GIVING
ME A PRETTY
COMPREHENSIVE
ANALYSIS
OF YOUR
ABILITIES.

I'VE NEVER
SEEN SUCH
SOPHISTICATED
HARDWARE, NOT
EVEN BACK AT
THE X-MEN'S
OLD HEAD-
QUARTERS.

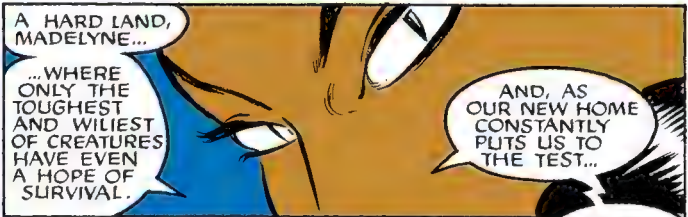
THE REAVERS MAY HAVE BEEN
UNREGENERATE SLIMEBALLS, BUT SOME
OF THEM WERE TECHNOLOGICAL
GENIUSES. WITH THESE SYSTEMS, I BET
I CAN TAP INTO ANY COMPUTER-COMMUNI-
CATIONS NETWORK ON EARTH.



AND IT'S SO USER-FRIENDLY
THAT EVEN A NOVICE LIKE ME
CAN LEARN TO HANDLE IT IN
COMPARATIVELY NO TIME.

YOU EVER WONDER WHY
THEY PICKED THIS GOD-
FORSAKEN WILDERNESS
FOR THEIR HIDEOUT,
STORM?

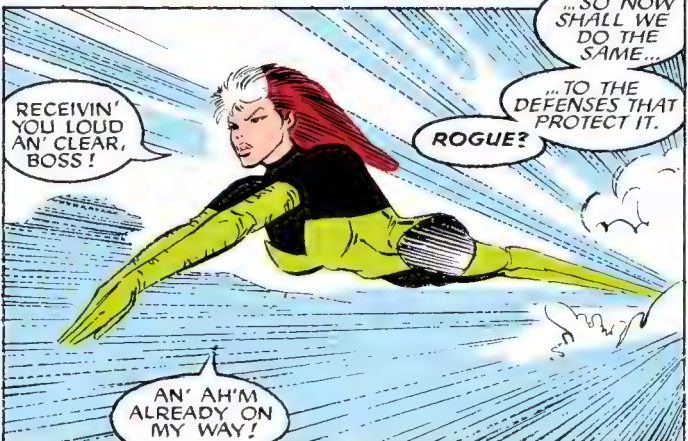
WITH THEIR LOOT,
THEY COULD HAVE
SETTLED ANYWHERE
ON EARTH. WHAT
MADE THIS DUMP
OF A GHOST TOWN
SO ENTICING?



A HARD LAND,
MADELYNE...

...WHERE
ONLY THE
TOUGHEST
AND WILDEST
OF CREATURES
HAVE EVEN
A HOPE OF
SURVIVAL.

AND, AS
OUR NEW HOME
CONSTANTLY
PUTS US TO
THE TEST...



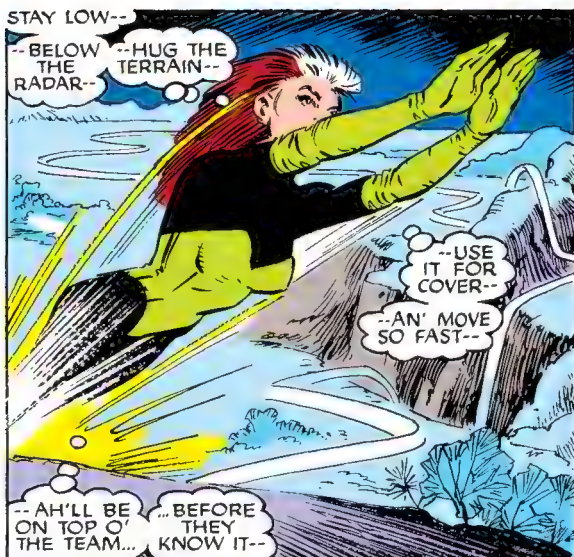
RECEIVIN'
YOU LOUD
AN' CLEAR,
BOSS!

...SO NOW
SHALL WE
DO THE
SAME...

...TO THE
DEFENSES THAT
PROTECT IT.

ROGUE?

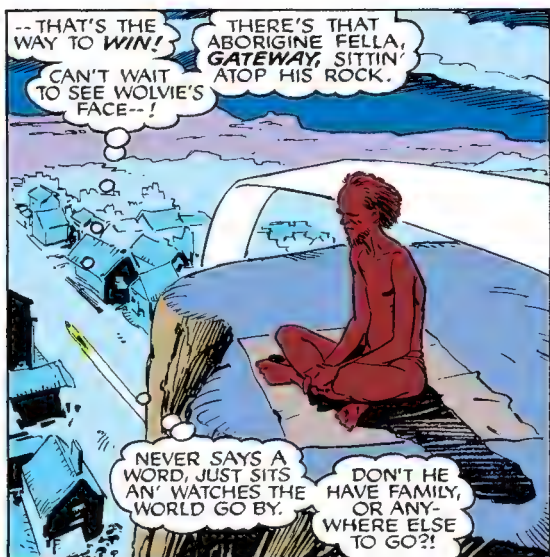
AN' AH'M
ALREADY ON
MY WAY!



--STAY LOW--
--BELOW THE RADAR--
--HUG THE TERRAIN--

--USE IT FOR COVER--
--AN' MOVE SO FAST--

--AH'LL BE ON TOP O' THE TEAM...
...BEFORE THEY KNOW IT--

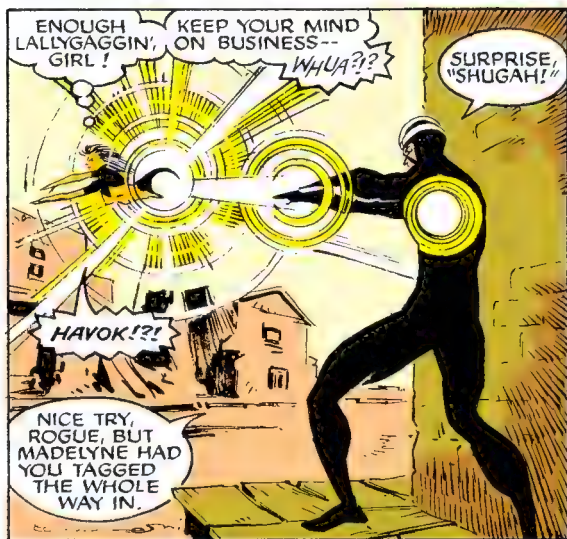


--THAT'S THE WAY TO WIN!
CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WOLVIE'S FACE--!

THERE'S THAT ABORIGINE FELLA, GATEWAY, SITTIN' ATOP HIS ROCK.

NEVER SAYS A WORD, JUST SITS AN' WATCHES THE WORLD GO BY.

DON'T HE HAVE FAMILY, OR ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO?!



ENOUGH LALLYGAGGIN' GIRL!
KEEP YOUR MIND ON BUSINESS--

WHY?!!
SURPRISE, "SHUGAH!"

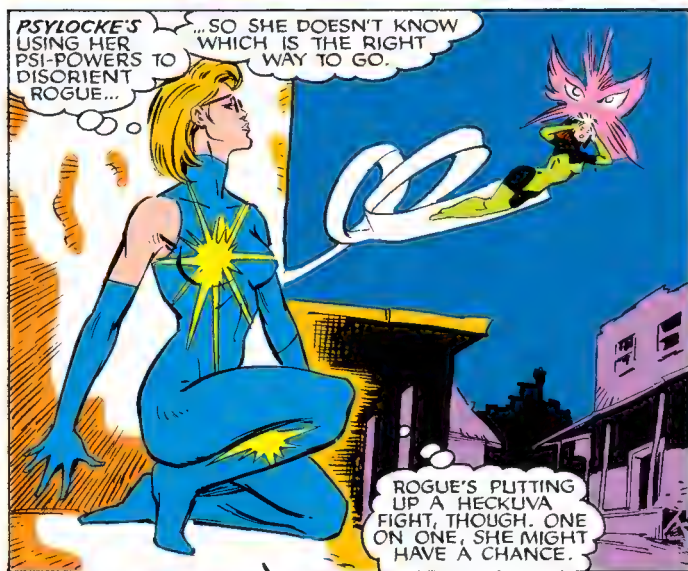
HAVOK!?!
NICE TRY, ROGUE, BUT MADELYNE HAD YOU TAGGED THE WHOLE WAY IN.



DARN DARN DARN!
HE HIT ME WITH A LOWEST INTENSITY PLASMA BURST--

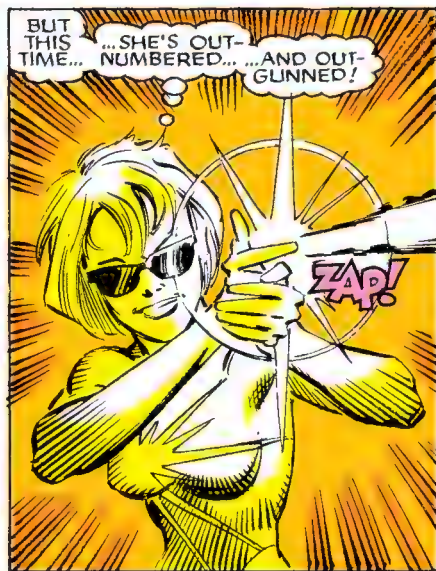
--NOT ENOUGH TO HURT, BUT IT STINGS LIKE THE DEVIL.

POOR DEAR--
Oh, NO!
--DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE--
--YOU CAN ESCAPE A TELEPATH?

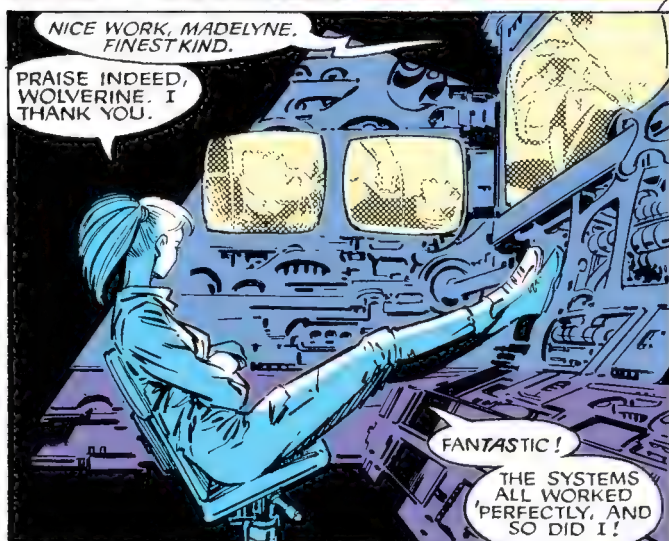
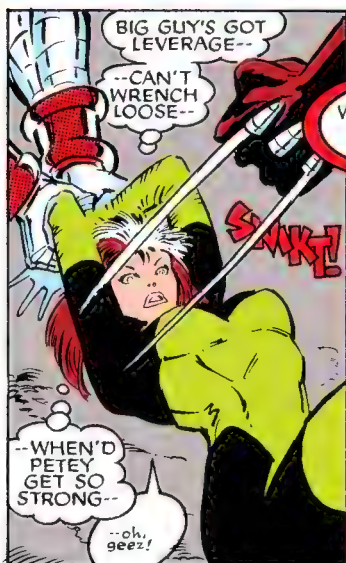


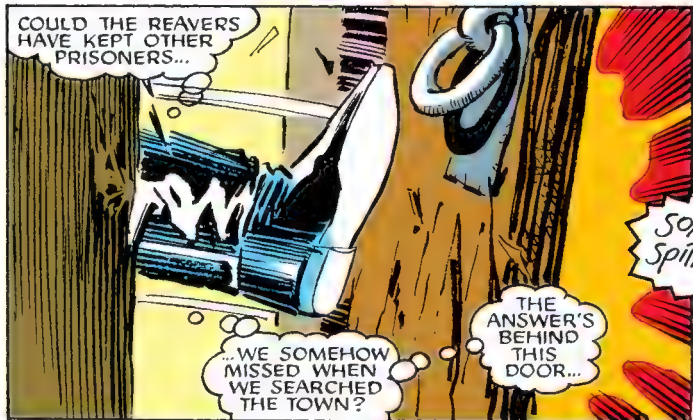
PSYLOCKE'S USING HER PSI-POWERS TO DISORIENT ROGUE...
...SO SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHICH IS THE RIGHT WAY TO GO.

ROGUE'S PUTTING UP A HECKUVA FIGHT, THOUGH. ONE ON ONE, SHE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE.



BUT THIS TIME...
...SHE'S OUT-NUMBERED... AND OUT-GUNNED!
ZAP!







IT'S THE REAVERS' TREASURE CAVE!

HEAR US!

HELP US!

SAVE US!

SO LOST ARE WE!

SO LONELY!

STOLEN WE WERE

FROM THOSE WHO LOVED US

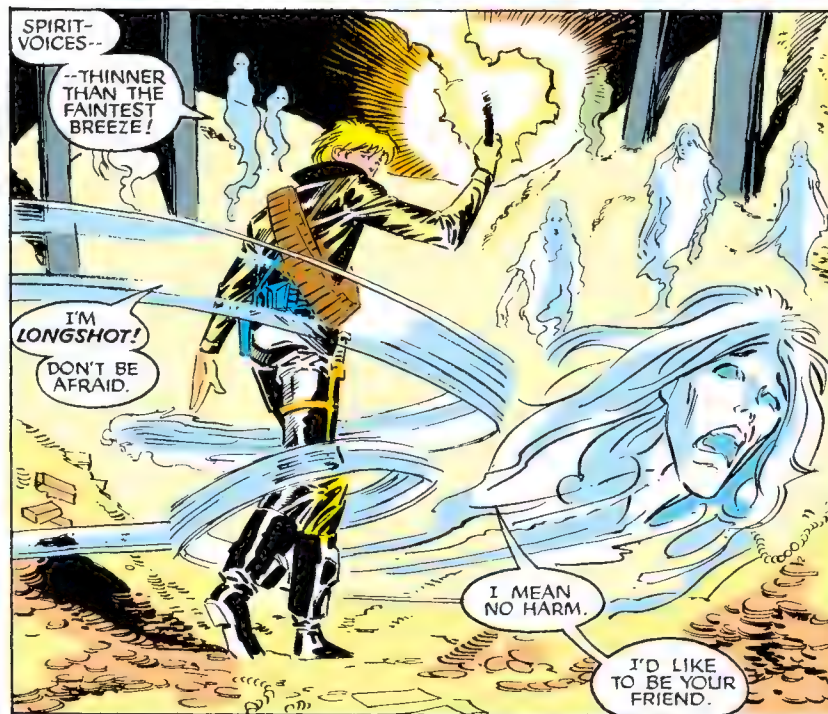
HERE, WE DO NOT BELONG

PLEASE

WE PLEAD

WE BEG

TAKE US HOME!



SPIRIT-VOICES--

--THINNER THAN THE FAINTEST BREEZE!

I'M LONGSHOT!
DON'T BE AFRAID.

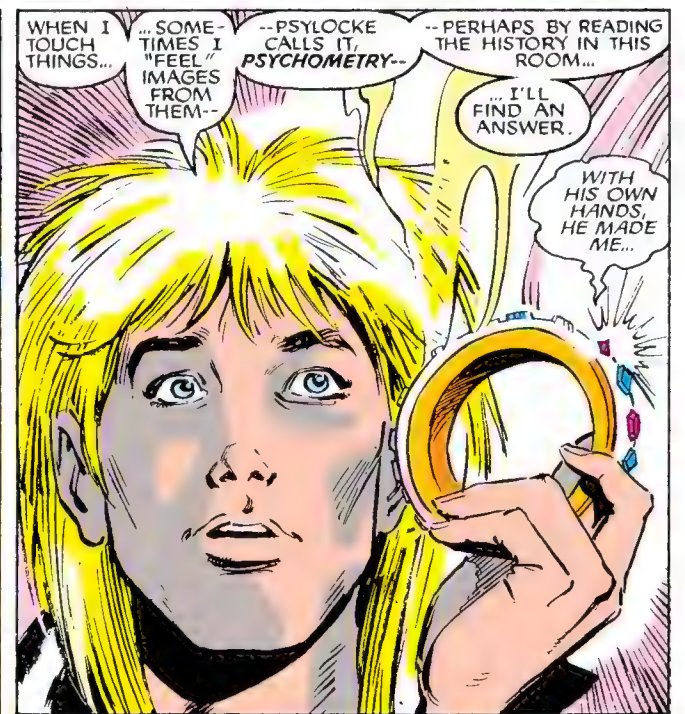
I MEAN NO HARM.

I'D LIKE TO BE YOUR FRIEND.



AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HEAR?
BUT WHY?

WHAT MAKES ME SO SPECIAL?!



WHEN I TOUCH THINGS...

...SOME-TIMES I "FEEL" IMAGES FROM THEM--

--PSYLOCKE CALLS IT, PSYCHOMETRY--

--PERHAPS BY READING THE HISTORY IN THIS ROOM...

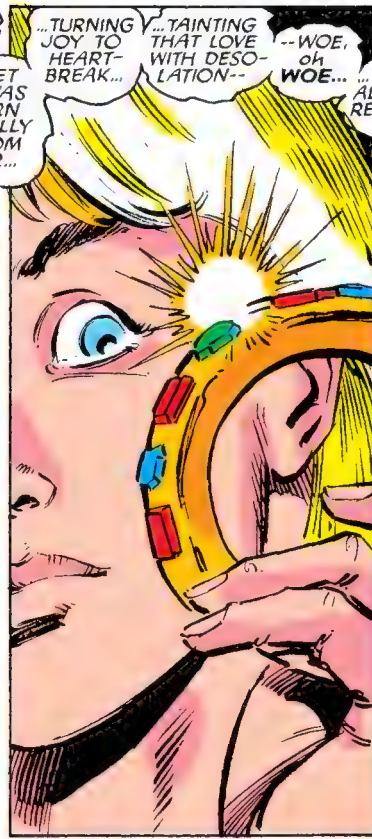
...I'LL FIND AN ANSWER.

WITH HIS OWN HANDS, HE MADE ME...



...SHAPING
ME FROM
RAW
METAL...
...INTO A
THING OF
BEAUTY...

...A **GIFT** FOR HER,
WHOM HE LOVED
BEST IN ALL
THE WORLD...
...YET
I WAS
TORN
CRUELLY
FROM HER...



...TURNING
JOY TO
HEART-
BREAK...

...TAINING
THAT LOVE
WITH DESO-
LATION--

--WOE,
oh
WOE...



...TO REMIND HER OF THE
BEAUTY THAT ONCE WAS...

WHY
AM I NOT
WITH HER?

STOP
IT--
--PLEASE--

--NO
MORE--

--I'M NOT
TO BLAME--

--WHY
ARE YOU
TORMENTING
ME?!



THE
VOICES--
--SO
DESPERATE--

--SO
LONELY...

...AWARE ONLY
THAT THEY'RE
PRISONERS,
POOR THINGS.
AND MY
POWER...

...IT'S
ACTING
LIKE A LIGHT
IN THEIR
DARKNESS...

...DRAWING
THEM
TO ME--

--AS THEIR
PSYCHIC CRIES
BROUGHT ME
TO THEM--



...THEY
MUST
SEE ME...

...AS THEIR
LAST HOPE!

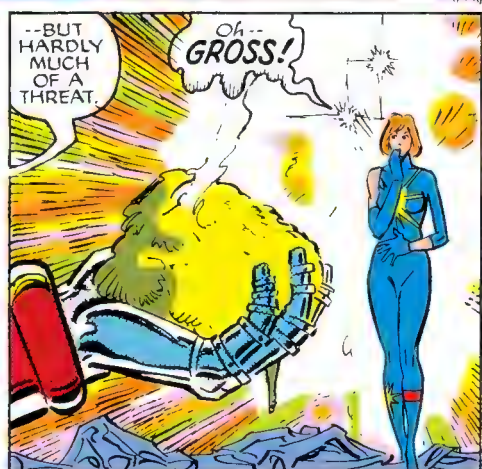
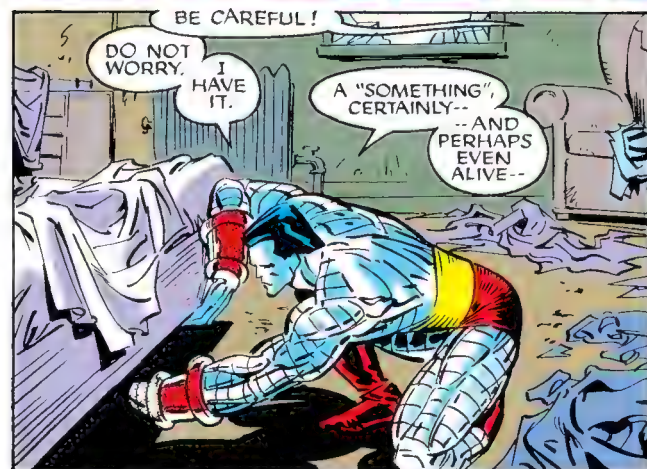
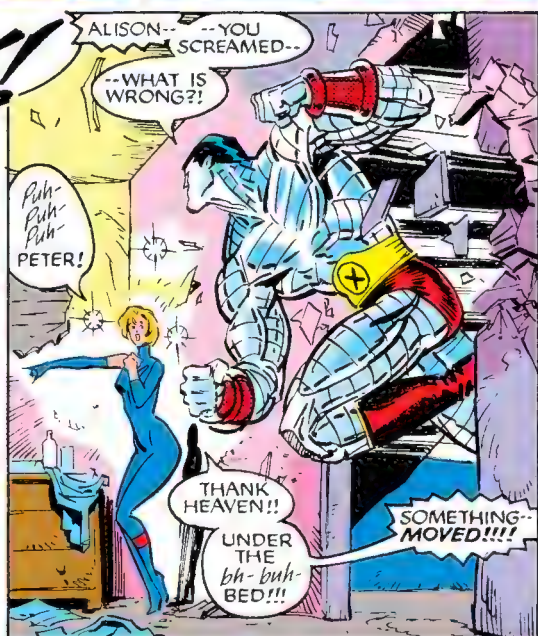
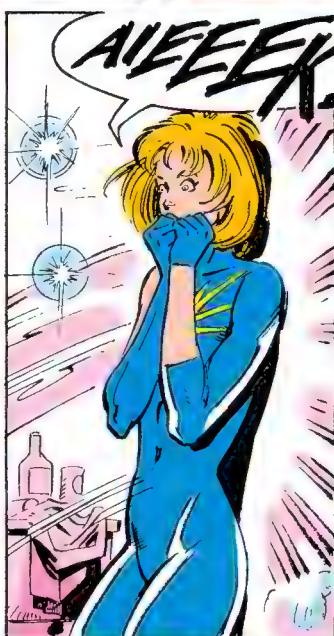
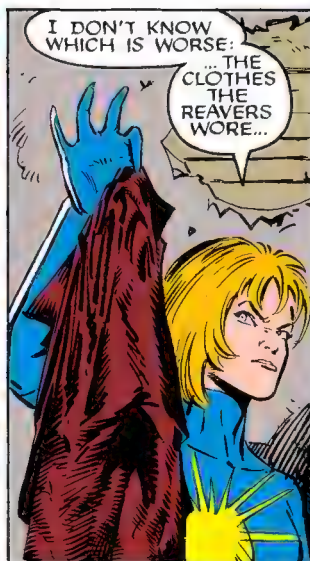


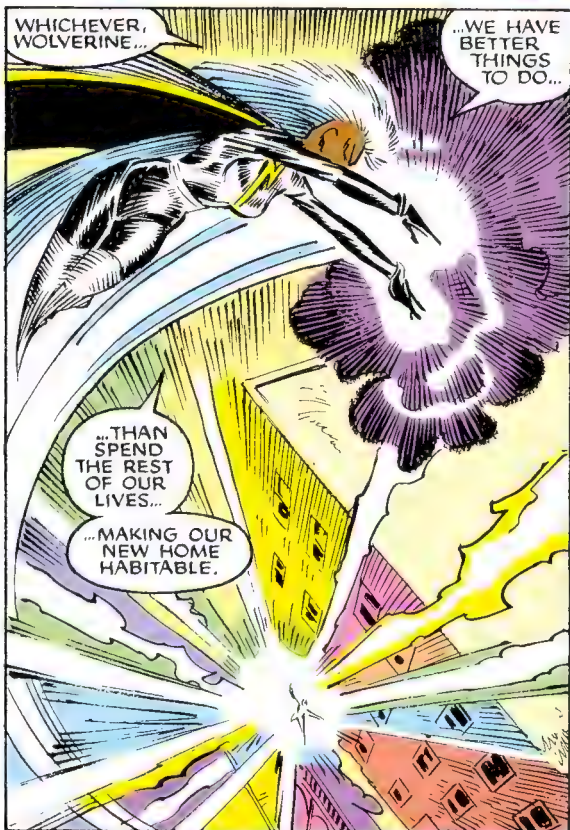
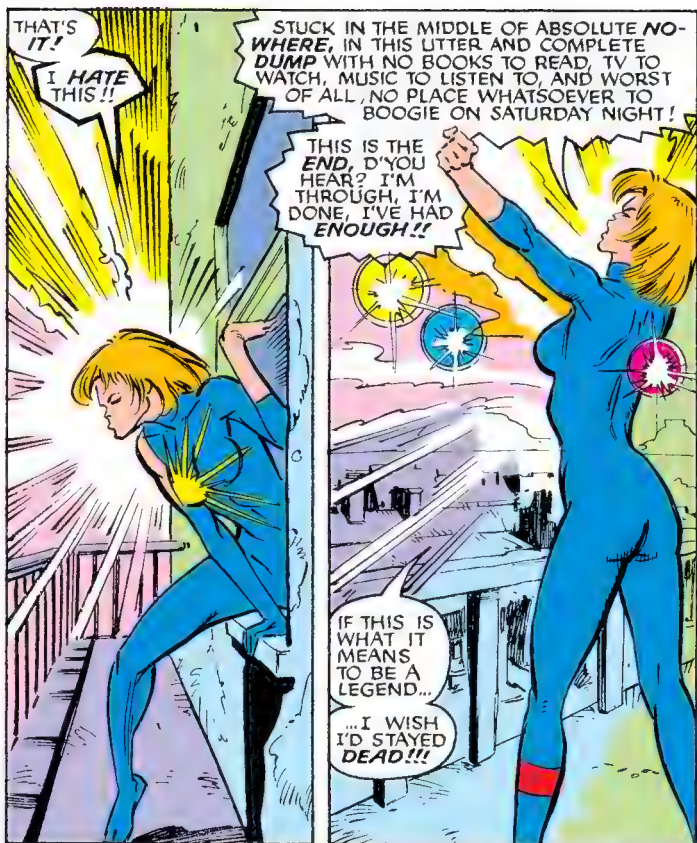
BUT SO
MANY
VOICES--

--SO
GREAT A
NEED--

--PLEASE,
YOU'RE
HURTING--

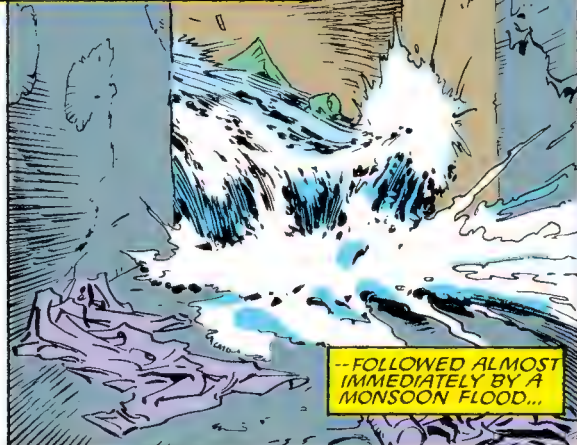
--IT'S MORE THAN
I CAN BEAR!!





FIRST COMES A GALE FORCE WIND,
TO SWEEP AWAY EVERYTHING
NOT NAILED DOWN--

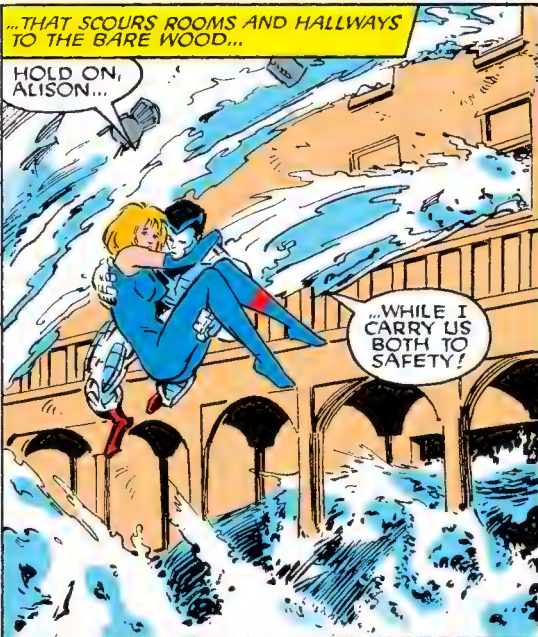
--YET UNDER SUCH
SUPERNALLY PRECISE
CONTROL THAT THE BASIC
STRUCTURE OF THE BUILDING
IS NOT DAMAGED--



--FOLLOWED ALMOST
IMMEDIATELY BY A
MONSOON FLOOD...

...THAT SCOURS ROOMS AND HALLWAYS
TO THE BARE WOOD...

HOLD ON,
ALISON...



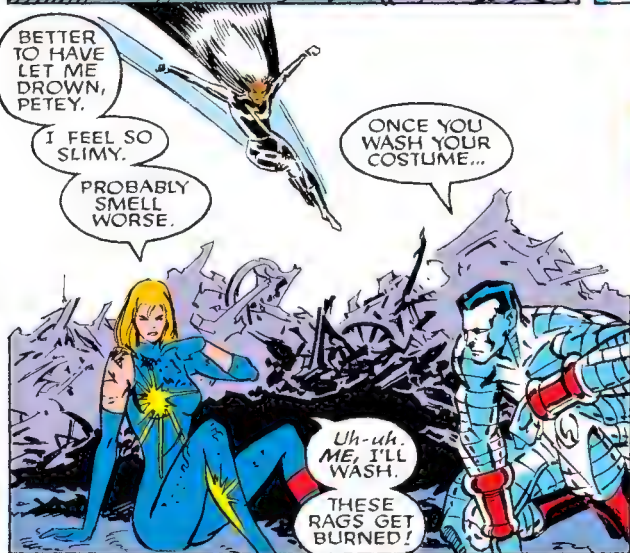
...WHILE I
CARRY US
BOTH TO
SAFETY!

BETTER
TO HAVE
LET ME
DROWN,
PETEY.

I FEEL SO
SLIMY.

PROBABLY
SMELL
WORSE.

ONCE YOU
WASH YOUR
COSTUME...



Uh-uh.
ME, I'LL
WASH.

THESE
RAGS GET
BURNED!

ANYTHING
IN THIS PILE
ANYBODY
WANTS?

ANYONE
OBJECT
TO MY
DOING THE
HONORS?

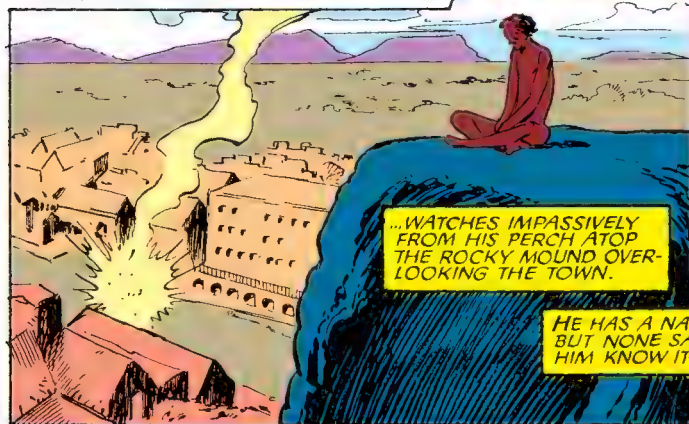
SAY
GOODBYE,
THEN...

SKZAP!

... TO
ALL THAT
TRASH!



AS HAVOK'S PLASMA BEAM REDUCES THE
REAVERS' LEAVINGS TO THEIR COMPONENT
ATOMS, AN ENIGMATIC FIGURE...

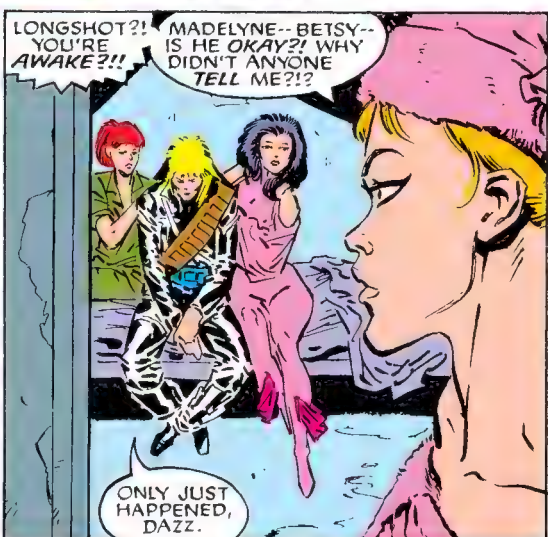
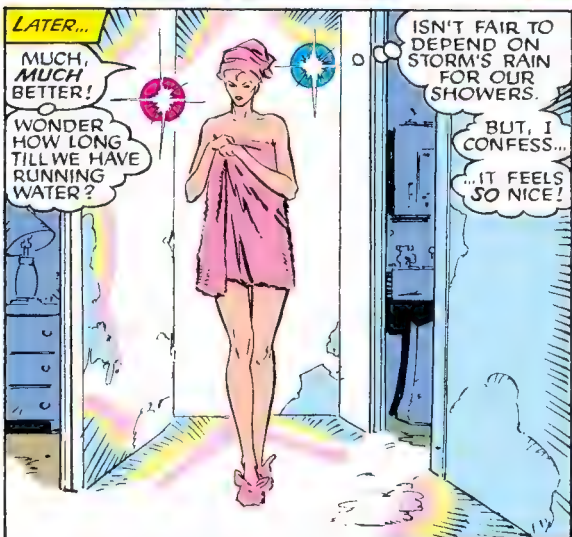
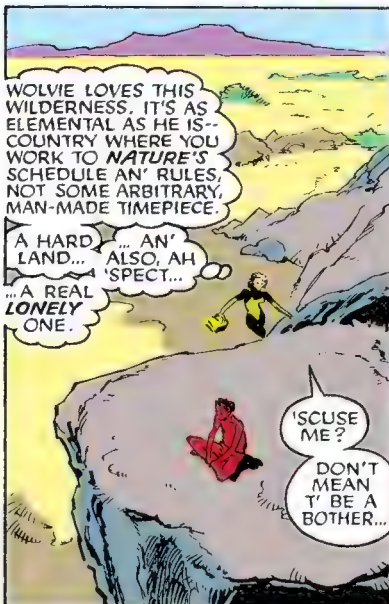
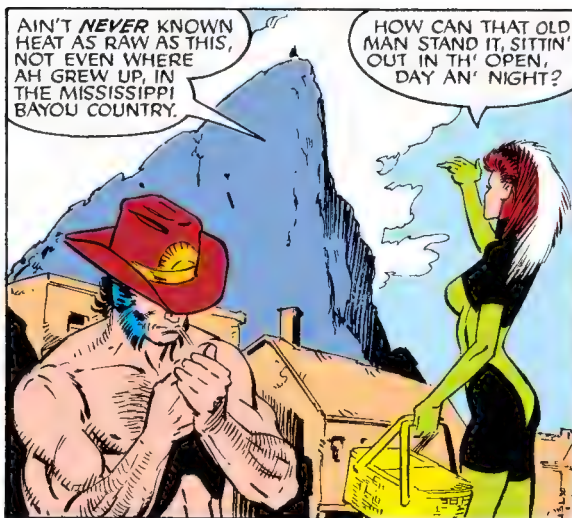


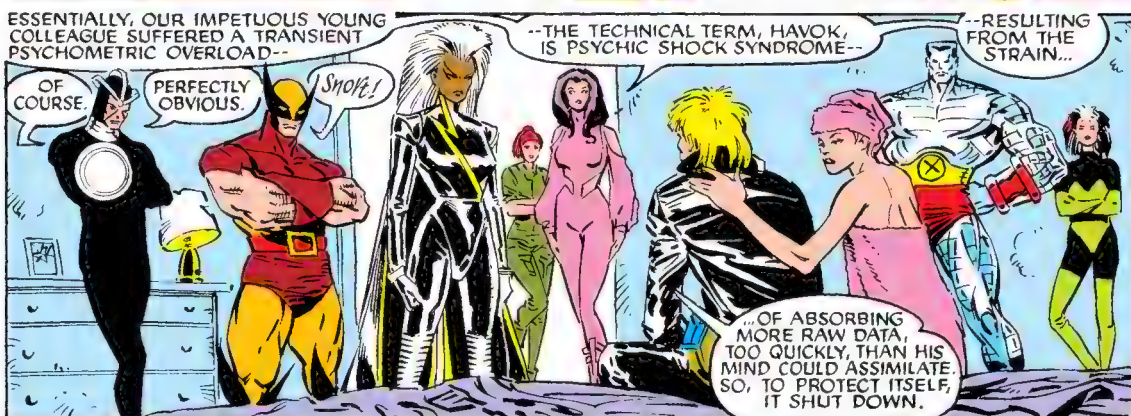
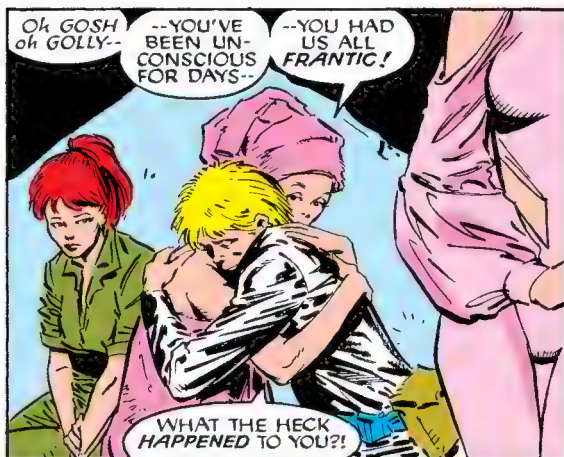
...WATCHES IMPASSIVELY
FROM HIS PERCH ATOP
THE ROCKY MOUND OVER-
LOOKING THE TOWN.

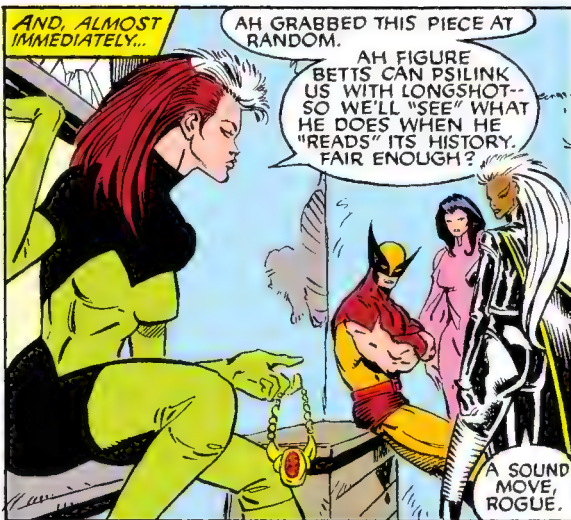
HE HAS A NAME,
BUT NONE SAVE
HIM KNOW IT--



--SO THE
X-MEN USE
THE ONE
THE REAVERS
GAVE HIM:
GATEWAY.





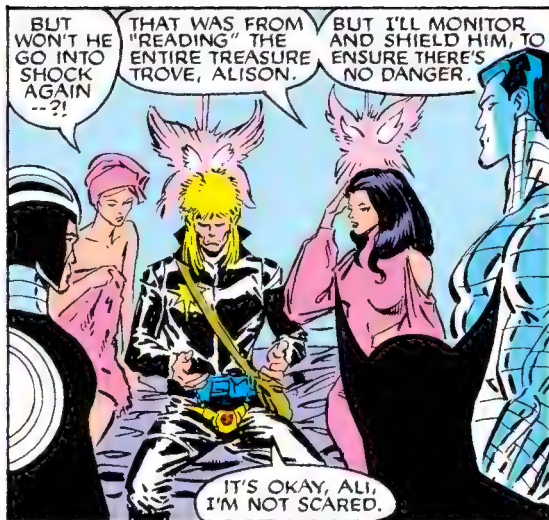


AND, ALMOST IMMEDIATELY...

AH GRABBED THIS PIECE AT RANDOM.

AH FIGURE BETTS CAN PSILINK US WITH LONGSHOT--SO WE'LL "SEE" WHAT HE DOES WHEN HE "READS" ITS HISTORY. FAIR ENOUGH?

A SOUND MOVE, ROGUE.



BUT WON'T HE GO INTO SHOCK AGAIN --?!

THAT WAS FROM "READING" THE ENTIRE TREASURE TROVE, ALISON.

BUT I'LL MONITOR AND SHIELD HIM, TO ENSURE THERE'S NO DANGER.

IT'S OKAY, ALI, I'M NOT SCARED.

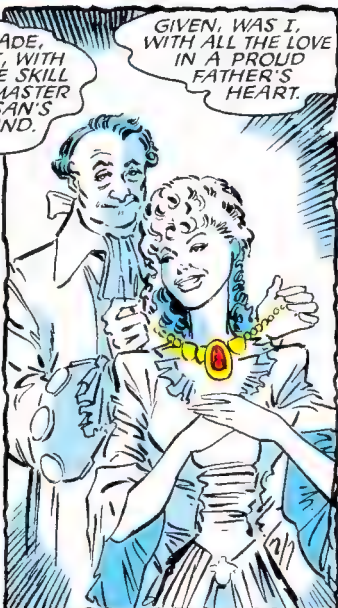


Gasp!

THIS IS FANTASTIC--

--AS THOUGH I'M PRESENT, WATCHING THESE EVENTS ACTUALLY HAPPEN!

MADE, WAS I, WITH ALL THE SKILL OF A MASTER ARTISAN'S HAND.



GIVEN, WAS I, WITH ALL THE LOVE IN A PROUD FATHER'S HEART.



PASSED DOWN, WAS I, FROM MOTHER TO DAUGHTER...

...FROM THEN TILL NOW.

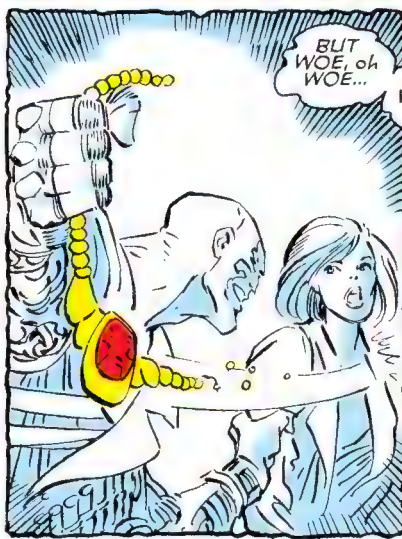
THE BEATLES



AND WHEN YOU COME OF AGE, HONEYBUNCH...

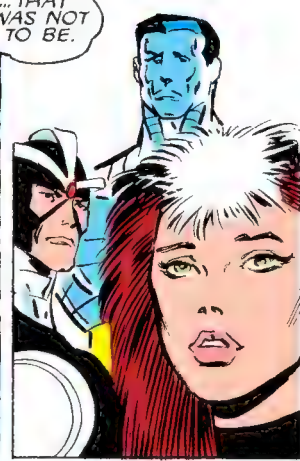
...THIS'LL BE YOURS, TO WEAR AND KEEP...

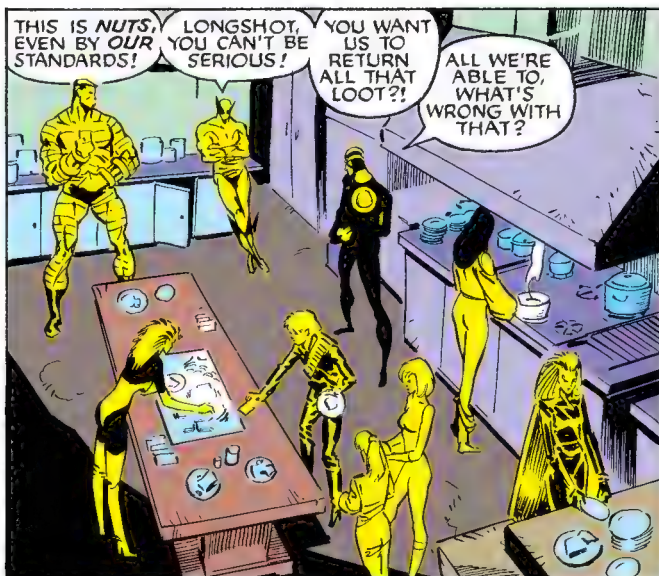
...TILL YOU HAVE A GIRL OF YOUR OWN.



BUT WOE, oh WOE...

...THAT WAS NOT TO BE.





THIS IS NUTS, EVEN BY OUR STANDARDS!

LONGSHOT, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

YOU WANT US TO RETURN ALL THAT LOOT?!

ALL WE'RE ABLE TO, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

YOU SUGGESTING WE KEEP IT?

I'M "SUGGESTING," BOY, THAT MAYBE THE X-MEN GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO.

I'M NOT A BOY, MISTER.

COULD'A FOOLED ME, SOMETIMES.



WOLVERINE, WHAT COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN RETURNING WHAT WAS STOLEN TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNERS?

THE REAVERS CAUSED THIS MISERY. WE CAN END IT.



WE ALREADY HAVE, YOUNGSTER, BY PUTTING THEM OUT OF BUSINESS.

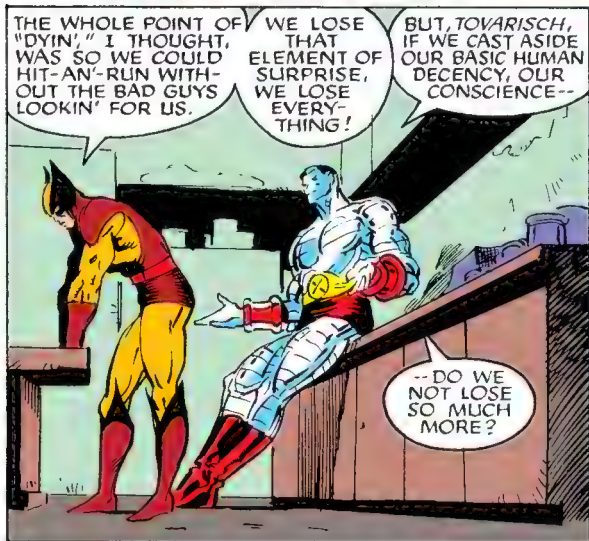


WHAT'S THE LINE: "THE EVIL THAT MEN DO OFT LIVES AFTER THEM, THE GOOD IS OFT INTERRED WITH THEIR BONES"?

IS IT SUFFICIENT TO SIMPLY DEFEAT THE VILLAINS?

WORKS FINE FOR ME.

WHY CAN'T WE TRY TO PUT RIGHT THE HARM THEY'VE DONE?



THE WHOLE POINT OF "DYIN'," I THOUGHT, WAS SO WE COULD HIT-AN-RUN WITHOUT THE BAD GUYS LOOKIN' FOR US.

WE LOSE THAT ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, WE LOSE EVERYTHING!

BUT, TOVARISCH, IF WE CAST ASIDE OUR BASIC HUMAN DECENCY, OUR CONSCIENCE--

--DO WE NOT LOSE SO MUCH MORE?

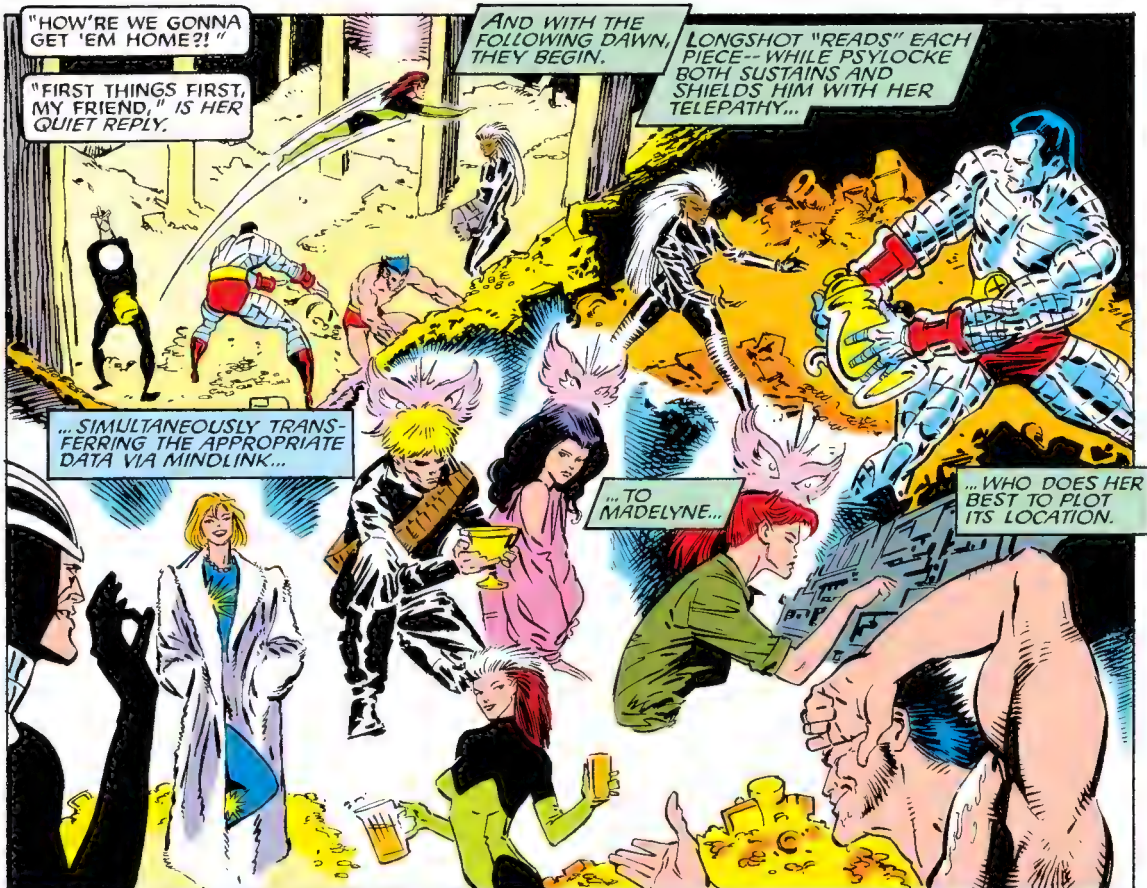


THIS MAY NOT BE PRACTICAL, LOGAN, BUT I AGREE WITH THE OTHERS.

IT IS NECESSARY.

YOU'RE THE BOSS.

BUT EVEN ASSUMING LONGSHOT CAN PINPOINT THE ORIGINS OF EVERY PIECE IN THAT FLAMIN' CAVERN...



"HOW'RE WE GONNA GET 'EM HOME?!"

"FIRST THINGS FIRST, MY FRIEND," IS HER QUIET REPLY.

AND WITH THE FOLLOWING DAWN, THEY BEGIN.

LONGSHOT "READS" EACH PIECE-- WHILE PSYLOCKE BOTH SUSTAINS AND SHIELDS HIM WITH HER TELEPATHY...

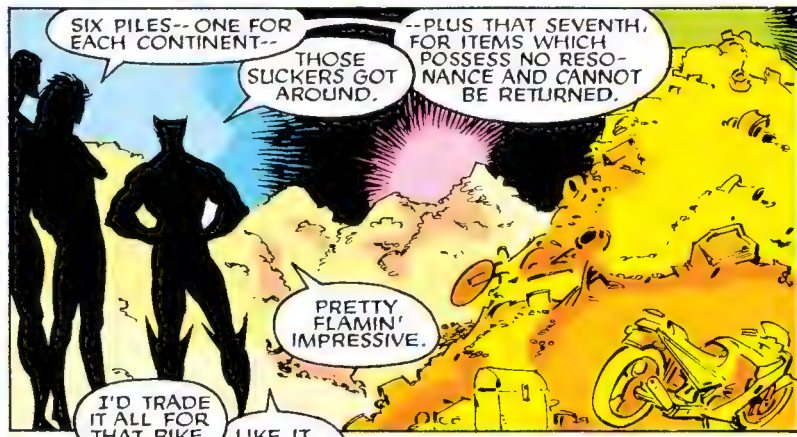
...SIMULTANEOUSLY TRANSFERRING THE APPROPRIATE DATA VIA MINDLINK...

...TO MADELYNE...

...WHO DOES HER BEST TO PLOT ITS LOCATION.

IT'S A LONG, HARD, WEARING PROCESS-- THE ENTIRE TEAM STAGGERED BY THE AMOUNT OF TREASURE THE REAVERS HAD AMASSED--

--BUT, EVENTUALLY...



SIX PILES-- ONE FOR EACH CONTINENT--

THOSE SUCKERS GOT AROUND.

--PLUS THAT SEVENTH, FOR ITEMS WHICH POSSESS NO RESONANCE AND CANNOT BE RETURNED.

PRETTY FLAMIN' IMPRESSIVE.

I'D TRADE IT ALL FOR THAT BIKE.

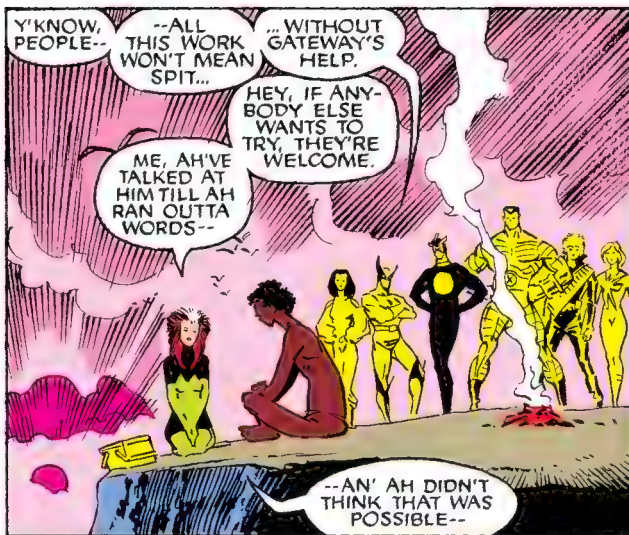
LIKE IT, DO YOU, DARLIN'?



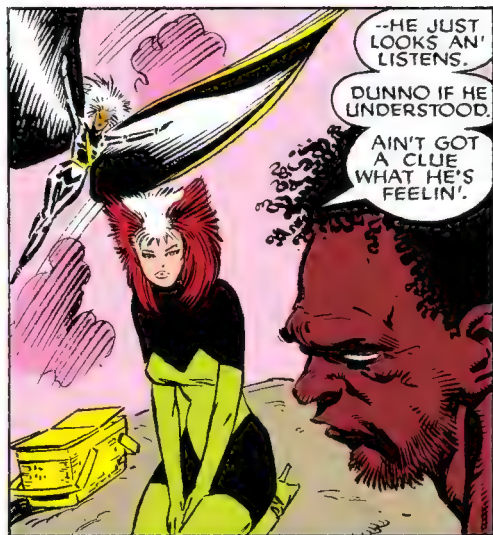
Oh, WOLVERINE--

--IF EVER ANYTHING IN THE WORLD WAS MADE FOR ME...

I HOPE ITS OWNER APPRECIATES WHAT WE'RE GIVING BACK.



Y'KNOW, PEOPLE--
--ALL THIS WORK WON'T MEAN SPIT...
... WITHOUT GATEWAY'S HELP.
HEY, IF ANYBODY ELSE WANTS TO TRY, THEY'RE WELCOME.
ME, AH'VE TALKED AT HIM TILL AH RAN OUTTA WORDS--
--AN' AH DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS POSSIBLE--



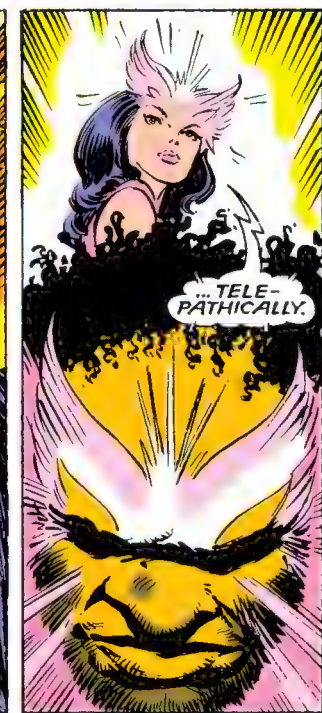
--HE JUST LOOKS AN' LISTENS.
DUNNO IF HE UNDERSTOOD.
AIN'T GOT A CLUE WHAT HE'S FEELIN'.



AT WHICH POINT...
YAYOWHH!
GATEWAY'S BONFIRE--
--IT'S ALIGHT!



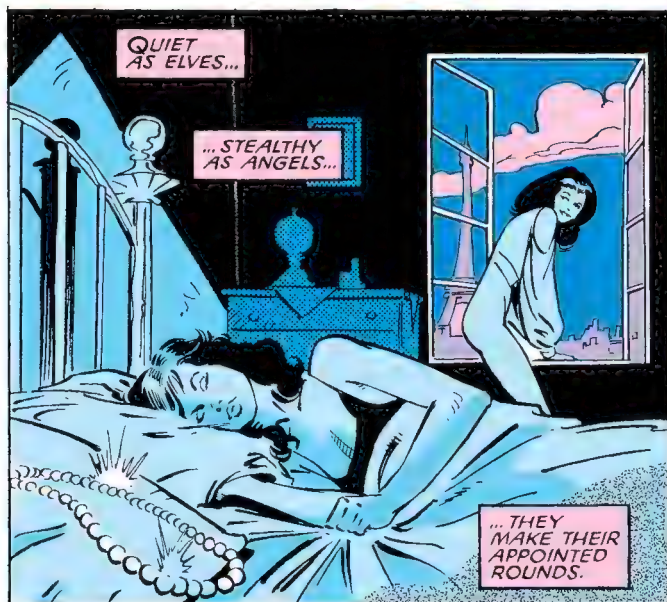
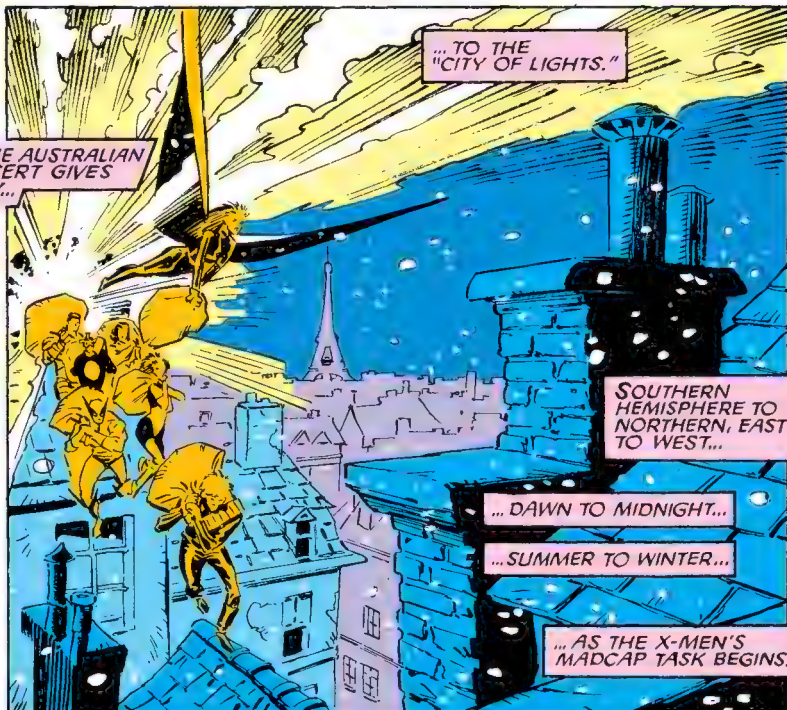
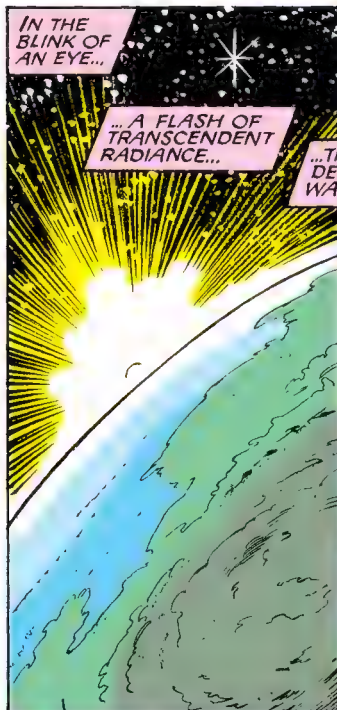
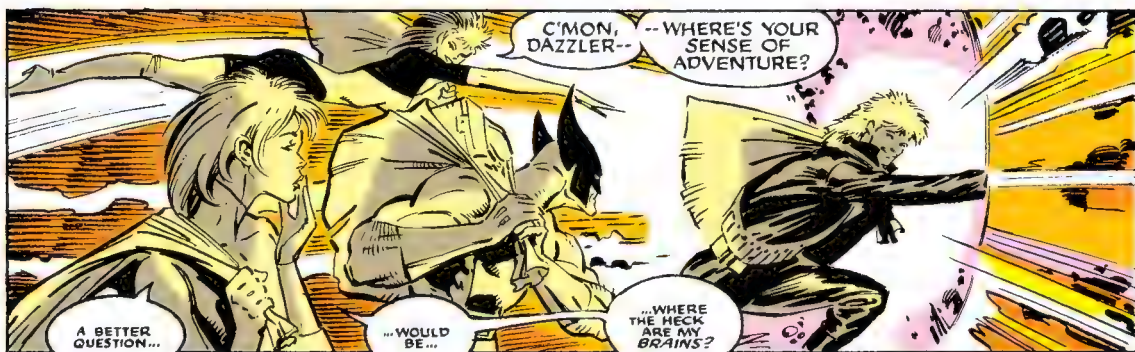
BLESS YOUR HEART, YOU DARLIN', YOU!
AH KNEW YOU'D COME THROUGH FOR US!!
BUT HOW'S HE GOING TO KNOW WHERE TO SEND US?
I SHALL TELL HIM, HAVOK...

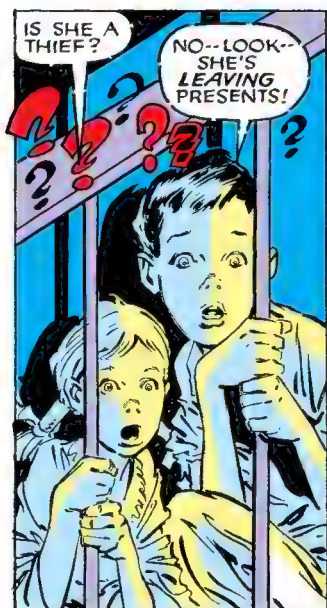


... TELE-PATHICALLY.



Y'KNOW-- WE'RE PUTTING OUR LIVES IN HIS HANDS--
--HOW DO WE KNOW WE CAN TRUST HIM?
BECAUSE, ALISON, WHAT WE'RE DOING IS RIGHT.
AH GOT NOTHIN' RATIONAL TO BASE THIS ON--
-- ONLY MY INSTINCTS...
... AN' THE LOOK IN HIS EYE--
--BUT AH SAY, GO FOR IT!





IS SHE A THIEF?

NO--LOOK-- SHE'S LEAVING PRESENTS!



Shshshsh!

FOLKS ARE FAST ASLEEP.

DON'T WANT TO WAKE 'EM NOW, DO WE?



CONGRATULATIONS, YOUNGSTERS--

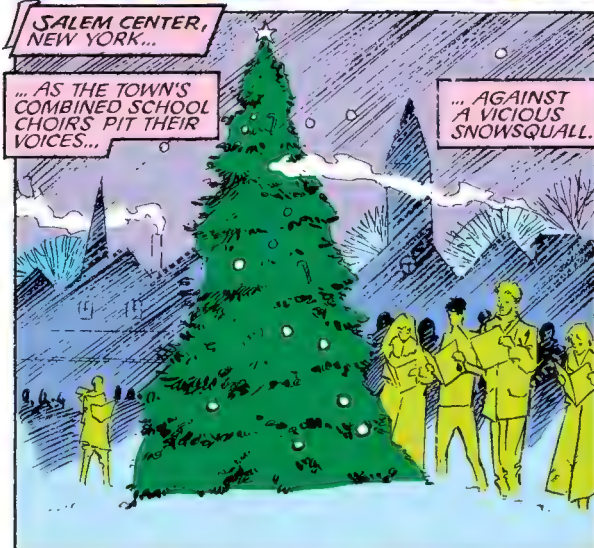
--GUESS WHAT--

--YOU JUST GOT TO MEET ONE OF...

...SANTA'S SPECIAL HELPERS.

'BYE, NOW!

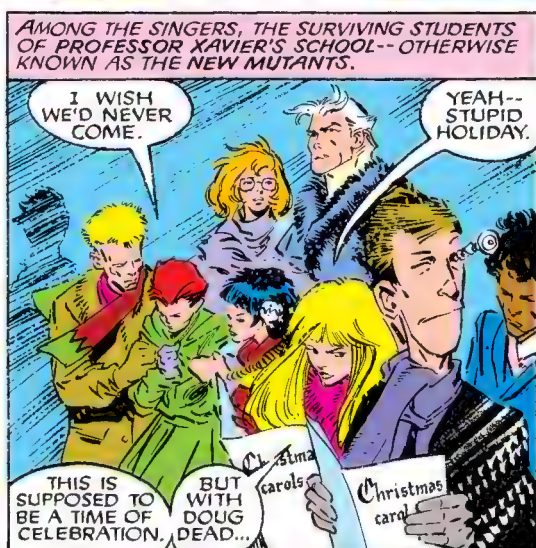
MUMMY! DADDY!! COME QUICK!!! COME SEE!!!! A MIRACLE!!!!



SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK...

...AS THE TOWN'S COMBINED SCHOOL CHOIRS PIT THEIR VOICES...

...AGAINST A VICIOUS SNOWSQUALL.



AMONG THE SINGERS, THE SURVIVING STUDENTS OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL-- OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NEW MUTANTS.

I WISH WE'D NEVER COME.

YEAH-- STUPID HOLIDAY.

THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A TIME OF CELEBRATION.

BUT WITH DOUG DEAD...

Christmas carols

Christmas carol



"...ALONG WITH MY BROTHER PETER AND THE X-MEN..."

POOR ILLYANA. I WISH WE COULD REVEAL THE TRUTH.

"...I DON'T FEEL MUCH IN THE MOOD."

BUT BETTER THE PAIN OF THIS LIE...

...THAN THAT OF MOURNING ANOTHER SLAIN TEAMMATE.

IN THE MEANWHILE, I CAN AT LEAST...



"...MODERATE THE ELEMENTS, TO MAKE THIS EVENING A LITTLE PLEASANTER."

WIND'S DYIN' DOWN.

AND THE SLEET'S CHANGING TO SNOW!

WHADDYA SAY, RAHNE--

--TONIGHT OF ALL NIGHTS--

--WANT TO TRY...

...ONE MORE CAROL?



SHE'S RELUCTANT AT FIRST, THE WORDS COME HALTINGLY--

-- BUT SLOWLY, GENTLY, THE BEAUTY OF THE SONG MIXES WITH THAT OF THE MOMENT...

...TO CREATE A SPECIAL MAGIC THAT TOUCHES ALL THEIR HEARTS WITH JOY...

...AND PEACE.



HONG KONG.

BILLY MAO NEVER MET A MUTANT IN HIS LIFE.

AND HE NEVER EVEN KNEW THE X-MEN EXISTED...

...TILL HE WATCHED THEM ON TV.

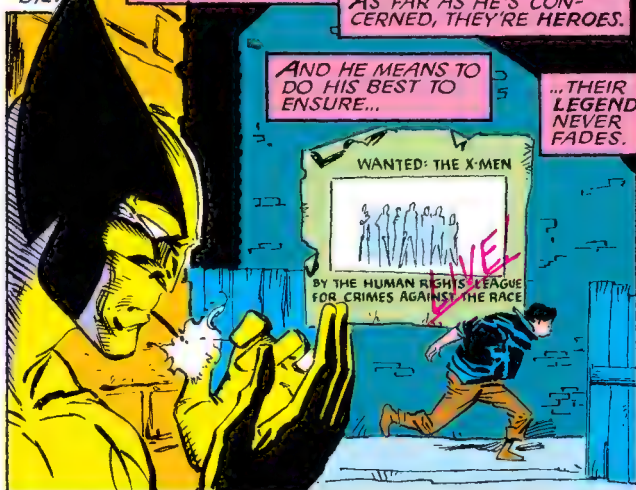
HE SAW THEM DIE.

AND, AFTERWARDS, NOTHING FOR HIM WAS QUITE THE SAME.

AS FAR AS HE'S CONCERNED, THEY'RE HEROES.

AND HE MEANS TO DO HIS BEST TO ENSURE...

...THEIR LEGEND NEVER FADES.



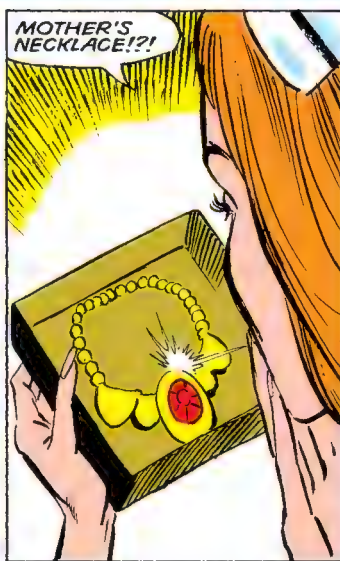
BOSTON...



ATRICS

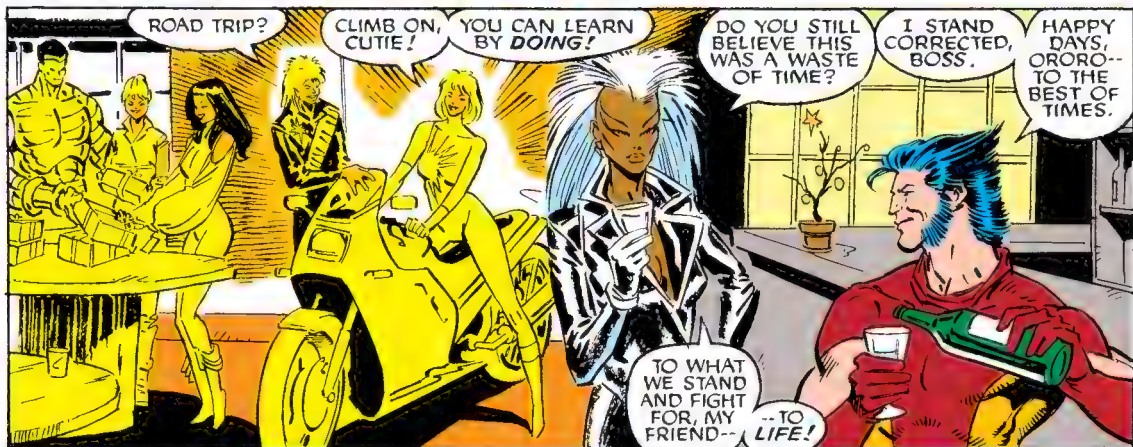
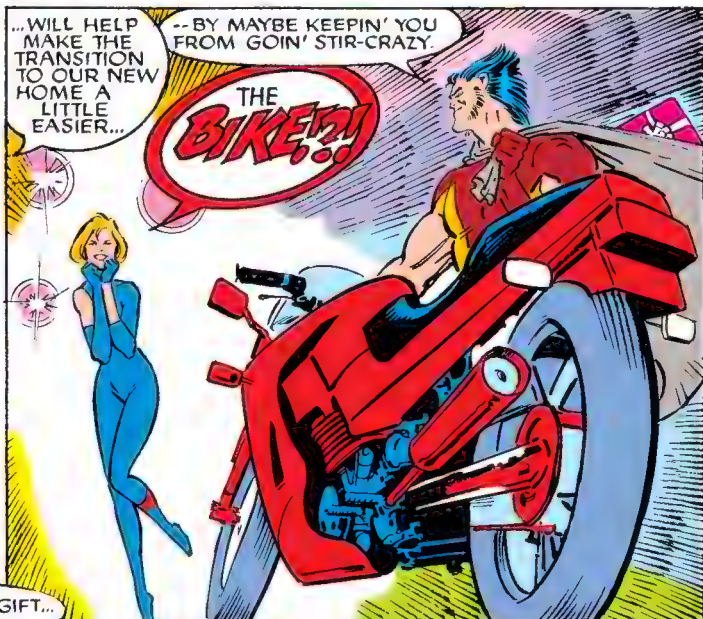
C.C.U.

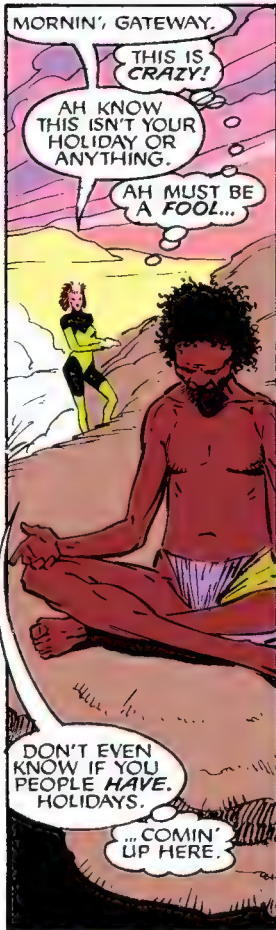
WHAT'S THIS?!



MOTHER'S NECKLACE!?!







MORNIN', GATEWAY.

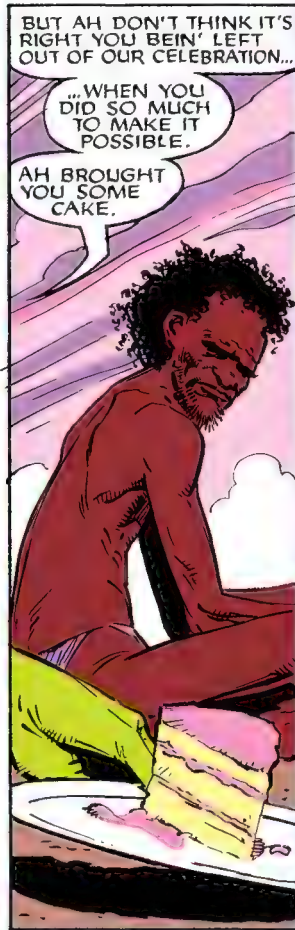
THIS IS **CRAZY!**

AH KNOW THIS ISN'T YOUR HOLIDAY OR ANYTHING.

AH MUST BE A **FOOL...**

DON'T EVEN KNOW IF YOU PEOPLE **HAVE** HOLIDAYS.

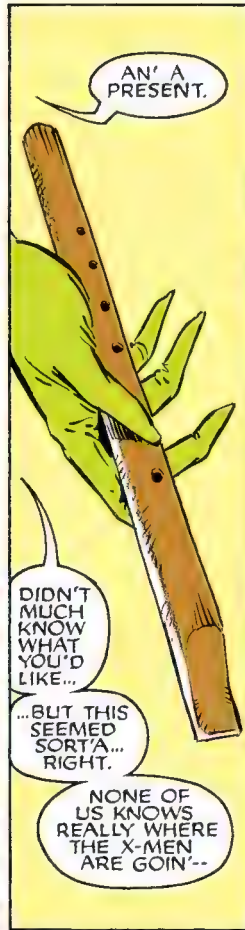
...COMIN' UP HERE.



BUT AH DON'T THINK IT'S RIGHT YOU BEIN' LEFT OUT OF OUR CELEBRATION...

...WHEN YOU DID SO MUCH TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE.

AH BROUGHT YOU SOME CAKE.

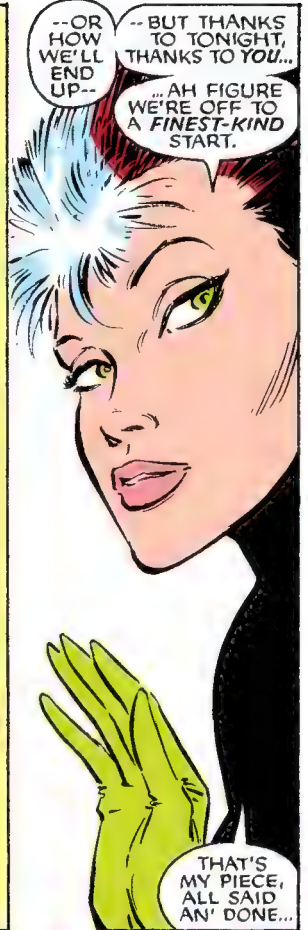


AN' A PRESENT.

DIDN'T MUCH KNOW WHAT YOU'D LIKE...

...BUT THIS SEEMED SORT'A... RIGHT.

NONE OF US KNOWS REALLY WHERE THE X-MEN ARE GOIN'--

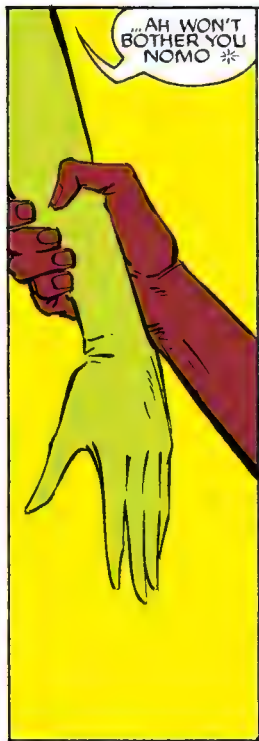


--OR HOW WE'LL END UP--

--BUT THANKS TO TONIGHT, THANKS TO YOU...

...AH FIGURE WE'RE OFF TO A **FINEST-KIND** START.

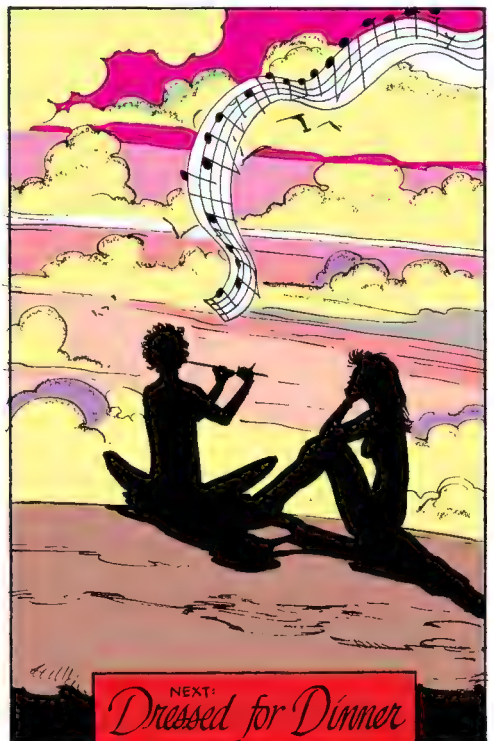
THAT'S MY PIECE, ALL SAID AN' DONE...



AH WON'T BOTHER YOU NOMO *



PAT PAT PAT



NEXT:
Dressed for Dinner

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75¢ US
95¢ CAN
62
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© 02207

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE NEW MUTANTS



PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS... WHERE SPECIAL TEENAGERS, BORN WITH VERY SPECIAL GIFTS, HONE THEIR MORE-THAN-HUMAN POWERS...

YOU'RE LUCKY, WARLOCK. WHEN LIFE'S TOO MISERABLE TO STAND, YOU CAN JUST TURN INTO FURNITURE...!

EXCLAMATION: IS BEST WAY FOR SELF TO EMBRACE ALL OF SELFRIENDS WHO REMAIN!

DOUG'S DEAD. MY BROTHER'S DEAD.

AND RAHNE'S IN HER WOLF-FORM. C'MON, RAHNE, BABY... SNAP OUT OF IT!

DOUG'S FUNERAL'S TOMORROW. YOU'LL HAVE TO BE A GIRL, THEN.

LEAVE HER ALONE, BOBBY. BEING A WOLF MAKES HER FEEL BETTER... AND AT LEAST WOLVES CAN'T CRY.

LOOK, GUYS! IT JUST CAME IN THE MAIL! IT'S FROM AMARA!

QUERY: A SCROLL? BUT SELF THOUGHT FRIENDMAGMA ATTENDED RIVAL MASSACHUSETTS-ACADEMY!

AH THOUGHT SO, TOO, 'LOCK.

SAM, WHAT DOES IT SAY?

WELCOME BACK TO THE REAL WORLD, RAHNE!

SHUT UP, BOBBY! IT SAYS, "I'M IN NOVA ROMA. EMPATH'S HERE TOO! HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME!"

EXCLAMATION-ALARM: EMPATH?! IS EMPATH NOT WORST OF ALL THE HELLIONS?

I'LL SAY HE IS! AND SHE UNDERLINED "WONDERFUL"!

WHAT THE HECK DID SHE MEAN BY THAT?

The MASSACHUSETTS
ACADEMY...

TO BUILD A FIRE

IT'S S.K.
AGAIN: IT
ONE!

AND SHE'S
ONLY A NEW
MUTANT...
A MUTIE!

HEY,
MUTIE,
GIVE IT
UP!

GIVE UP,
MAGMA!

HEY, EMPATH,
WE'RE GONNA
CREAM YOUR
GIRL FRIEND!
THIS PRACTICE
SESSION'LL BE
OVER 'FORE
IT BEGINS!

WHAT'S YOUR
PROBLEM, TAROT?
I'M NOT A NEW
MUTANT, ANYMORE!
I LEFT XAVIER'S
SCHOOL
BEHIND ME...

CREATED BY
CHRIS CLAREMONT
& BOB MCLEOD

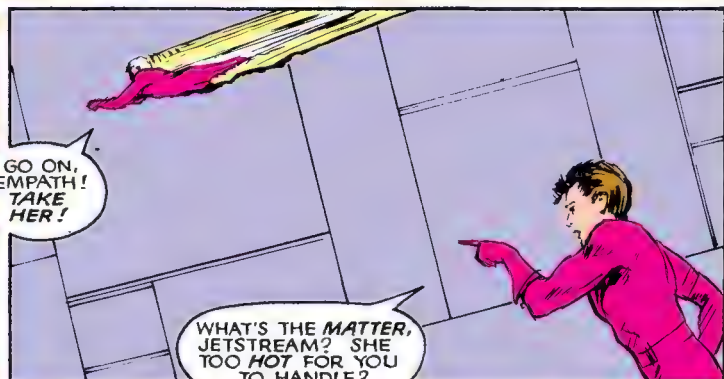
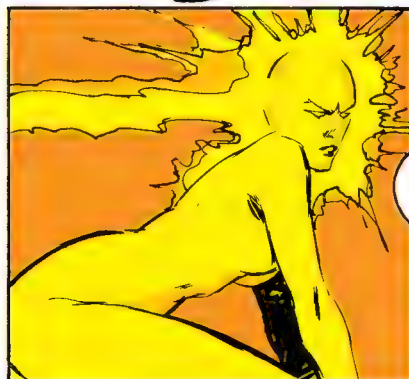
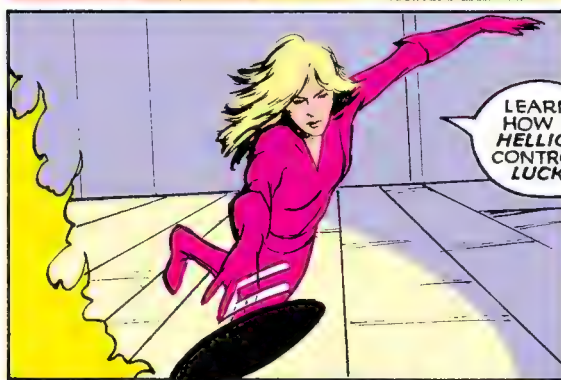
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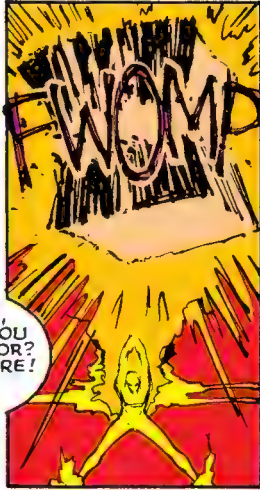




SHE'D FRY YOU TO A CRISP!



EMPATH, WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR? GET IN THERE! POSSESS HER!



GOOD TRY, MAGMA, BUT STILL YOU LOSE!

GO ON, EMPATH. CALM HER DOWN, DARN IT! MAKE HER STOP FIGHTING!



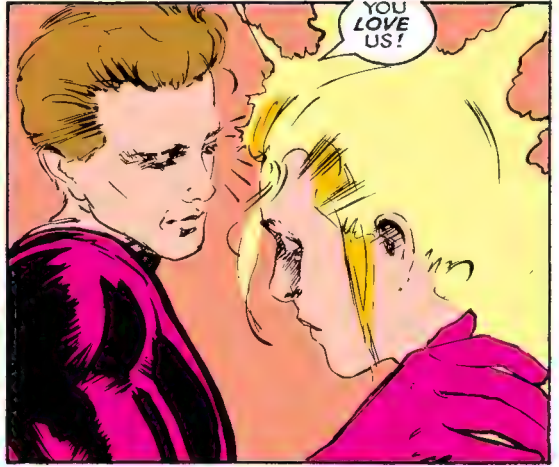
IT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL BEAT HER, ISN'T IT?



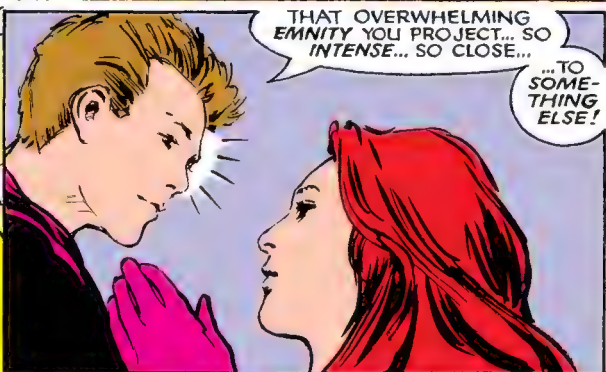
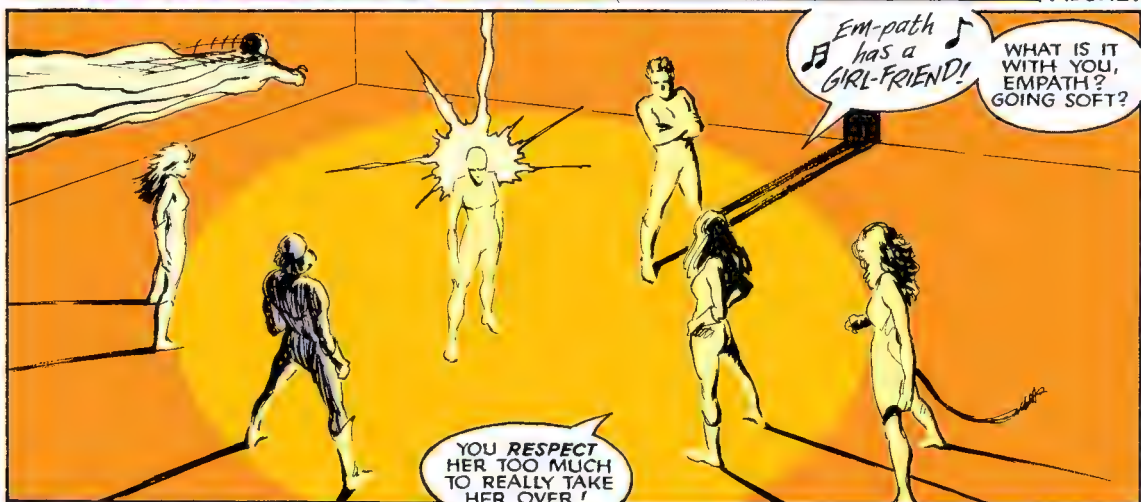
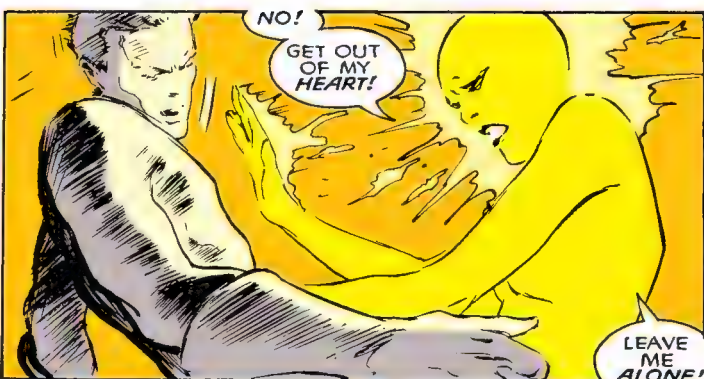
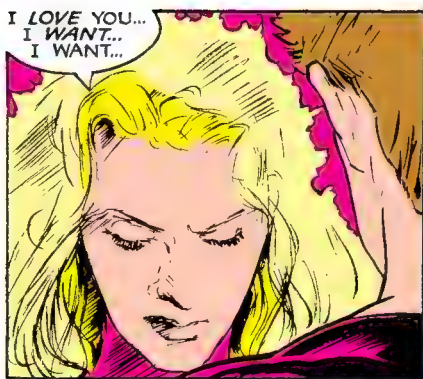
YOU DON'T WANT TO FIGHT US, DO YOU, AMARA?



YOU DON'T WANT TO HARM US. YOU'RE ONE OF US, NOW.



YOU LOVE US!





UNLIKE TAROT, AMARA IS STRONG-WILLED AND WELL-TRAINED IN RESISTING MIND CONTROL!

AMARA, DEAR, YOU LOOK UPSET!

MY FATHER WANTS ME TO COME HOME.

THE PRACTICE SESSION IS OVER, STUDENTS. AMARA, YOU'LL WANT TO PACK, DEAR.

MANUEL, REMAIN HERE! THERE'S SOMETHING I WISH TO DISCUSS WITH YOU!

Oh, WHAT A SHAME! BUT... WE MUST SEND YOU HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

YOU WEREN'T REALLY TRYING TO INFLUENCE HER!

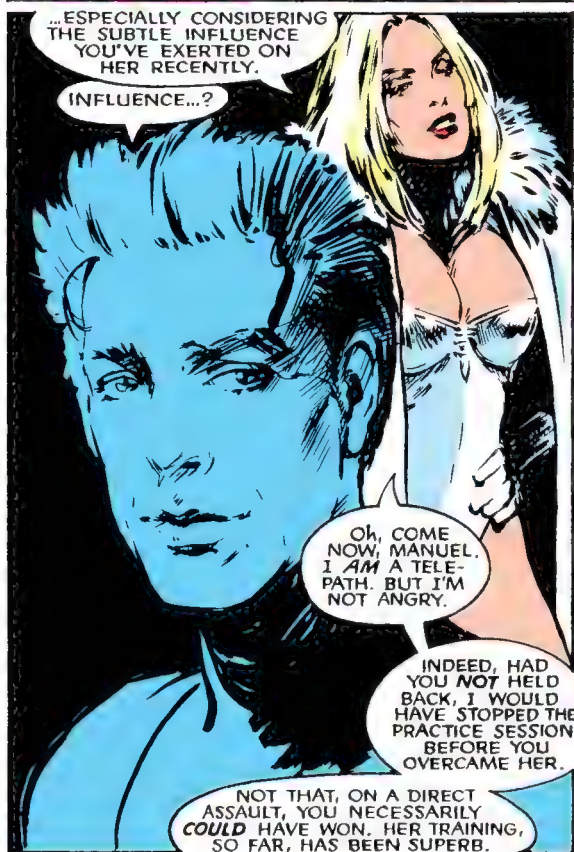


SHE'S A TEAM-MATE. SHE HATES BEING CONTROLLED, I CAN FEEL IT! NOT LIKE TAROT!



I WOULDN'T HUMILIATE HER IN THAT FASHION.

VERY NOBLE, EMPATH. NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL...



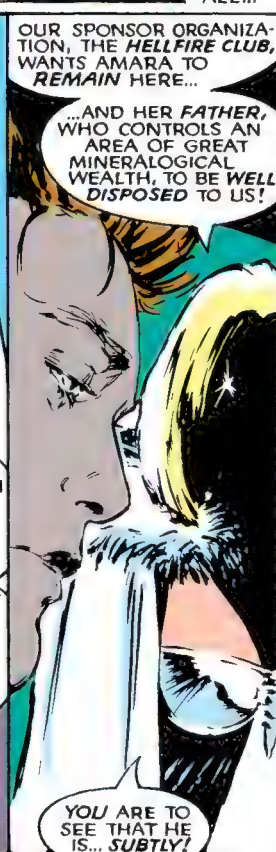
...ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE SUBTLE INFLUENCE YOU'VE EXERTED ON HER RECENTLY.

INFLUENCE...?

Oh, COME NOW, MANUEL. I AM A TELEPATH. BUT I'M NOT ANGRY.

INDEED, HAD YOU NOT HELD BACK, I WOULD HAVE STOPPED THE PRACTICE SESSION BEFORE YOU OVERCAME HER.

NOT THAT, ON A DIRECT ASSAULT, YOU NECESSARILY COULD HAVE WON. HER TRAINING, SO FAR, HAS BEEN SUPERB.



OUR SPONSOR ORGANIZATION, THE HELLFIRE CLUB, WANTS AMARA TO REMAIN HERE...

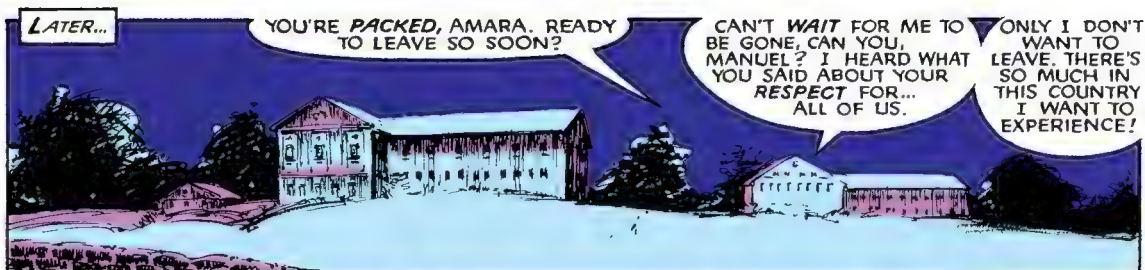
...AND HER FATHER, WHO CONTROLS AN AREA OF GREAT MINERALOGICAL WEALTH, TO BE WELL DISPOSED TO US!

BUT MY INTERVENTION WASN'T NECESSARY. YOU'RE LEARNING SUBTLETY.

AND BECAUSE YOU ARE, I WANT YOU TO GO WITH AMARA TO VISIT HER FATHER.

ME...? WHY?

YOU ARE TO SEE THAT HE IS... SUBTLY!



LATER...

YOU'RE **PACKED**, AMARA. READY TO LEAVE SO SOON?

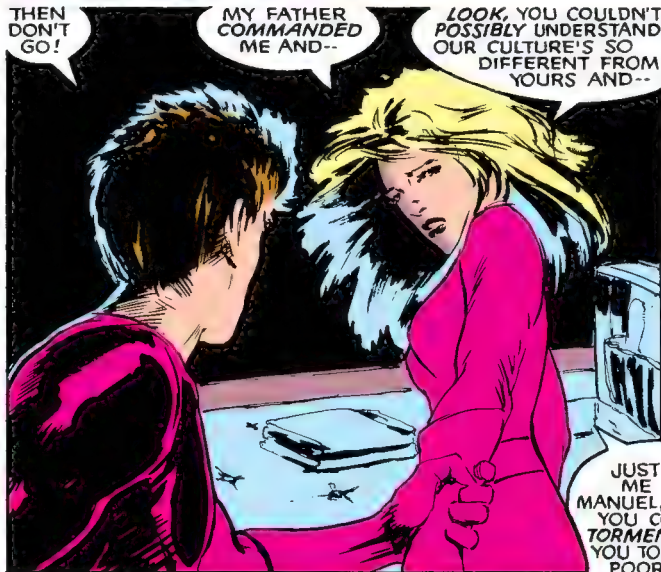
CAN'T **WAIT** FOR ME TO BE GONE, CAN YOU, MANUEL? I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT YOUR **RESPECT** FOR... ALL OF US.

ONLY I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE. THERE'S SO MUCH IN THIS COUNTRY I WANT TO EXPERIENCE!

THEN DON'T GO!

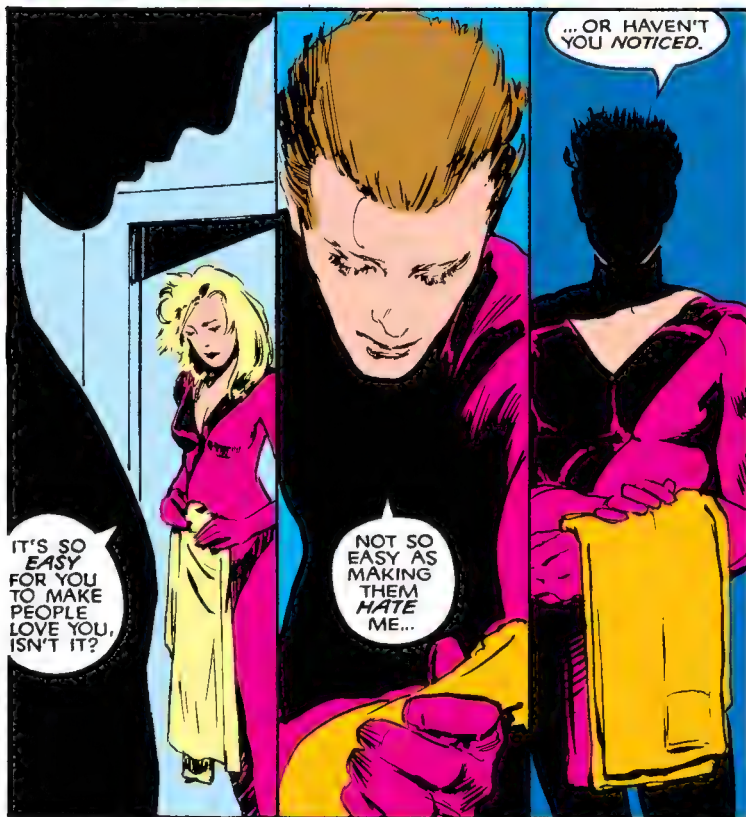
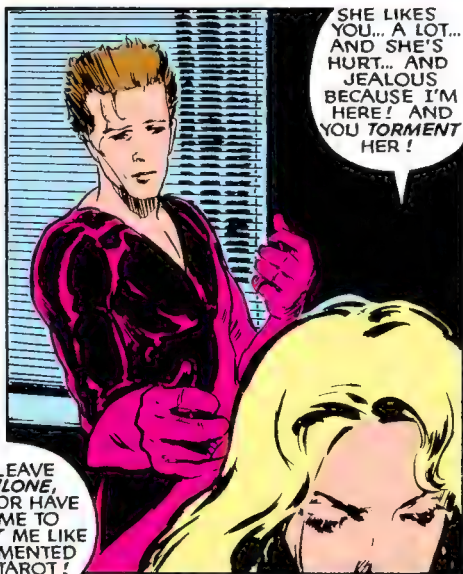
MY FATHER COMMANDED ME AND--

LOOK, YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND. OUR CULTURE'S SO DIFFERENT FROM YOURS AND--



JUST LEAVE ME **ALONE**, MANUEL, OR HAVE YOU COME TO **TORMENT** ME LIKE YOU TORMENTED POOR TAROT!

SHE LIKES YOU... A LOT... AND SHE'S HURT... AND JEALOUS BECAUSE I'M HERE! AND YOU **TORMENT** HER!



IT'S SO **EASY** FOR YOU TO MAKE PEOPLE LOVE YOU, ISN'T IT?

NOT SO EASY AS MAKING THEM **HATE** ME...

...OR HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED.



LISTEN, 'MARA, I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU! MISS FROST SAYS I'M TO COME WITH YOU!

BUT... WHY?



MAYBE... SO I CAN CONVINCE YOUR **FATHER** TO LET YOU STAY.

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

THE JET WE
TOOK TO BUENOS
AIRES WAS FUN,
MANUEL, LIKE
RIDING ON A
CHARIOT OF
THE GODS.

BUT
THIS LITTLE
BOUNCING
CRAFT IS
SCARY.

IT ALMOST
MAKES ME
BELIEVE, AS
MANY OF MY
PEOPLE DO,
THAT MAN
WAS NOT
MEANT TO
FLY.

BUT YOURS
IS A PRIMITIVE
JUNGLE CULTURE.
IRON AGE, RIGHT?
ANCIENT ROMAN/
INCA MIX?

JUST
BECAUSE WE
DON'T HAVE
FLIGHT DOESN'T
MAKE US--

EEEEK!

LISTEN, AMARA,
THERE'S NOTHING
TO WORRY ABOUT.
WE'RE ON THE
LAST LEG OF
OUR JOURNEY.

I'VE FLOWN
THROUGH
STORMS IN MY
FAMILY'S PLANE
MANY TIMES OVER
THE MOUNTAINS
OF MY NATIVE
SPAIN...

... BUT IF
YOU'RE
NERVOUS,
I'LL TALK TO
THE PILOT.

PILOT, WHY
MUST YOU
RISK THE
DAUGHTER OF
SENATOR
AQUILA LIKE
THIS? WHY
CAN'T WE
SIMPLY FLY
AROUND THE
STORM?

SHUT UP,
KID, AN' SIT
DOWN! WE'VE
ALREADY GONE
OFF COURSE,
HOPING TO
AVOID THE
STORM.

WE'VE
STRETCHED
IT ABOUT
AS FAR AS
THE FUEL
WILL--

KRAK
LA
M



AMARA! WE'VE
BEEN HIT!
WE'RE GOING
DOWN!



WE'RE
DEAD!

NOT NECESSARILY!
I'VE FLOWN ALL MY
LIFE. A LITTLE PLANE
LIKE THIS WILL
GLIDE.



THERE'S
AN EMPTY
STRETCH
AHEAD. THE
PILOT WILL
MAKE FOR
THAT!



WE MUST
GET OUT!
AWAY FROM
HERE!

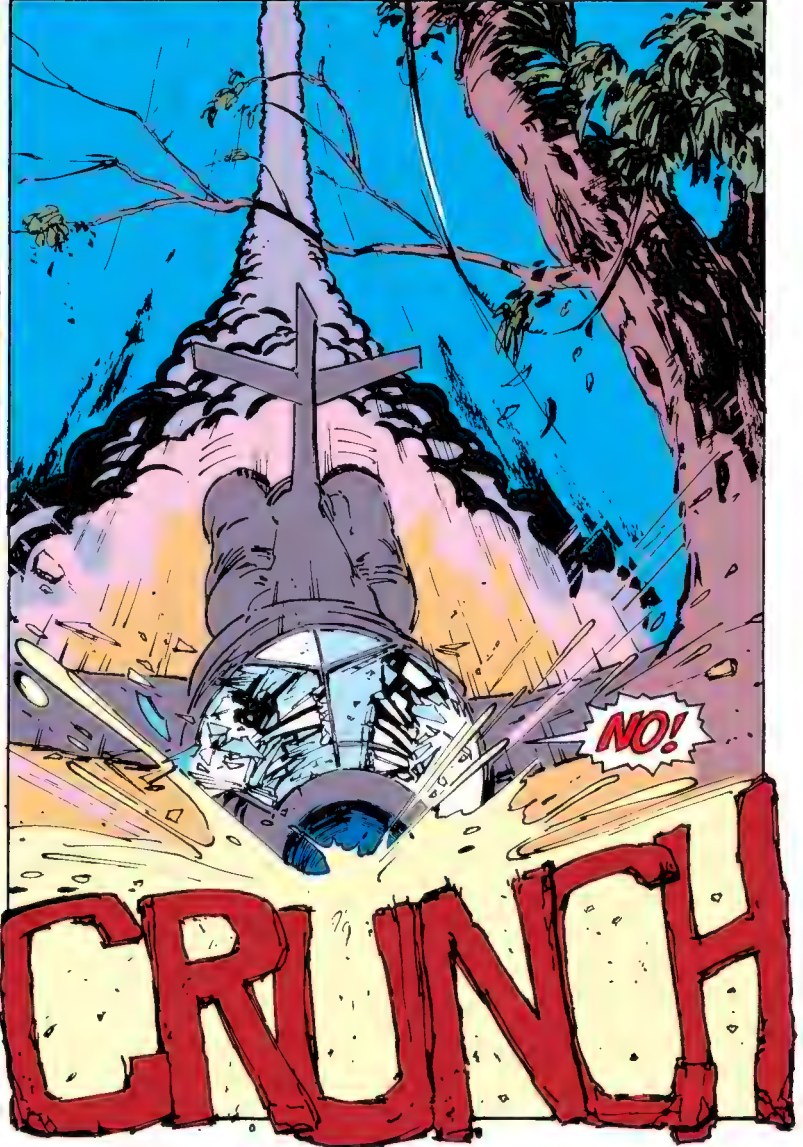
OW!

AMARA,
NO! STAY
BUCKLED UP.
BRACE YOUR-
SELF... I'LL
SHOW YOU
HOW!

YOU'RE NOT
AFRAID, AMARA!
YOU'RE CALM...
WILL I HAVE TO TAKE
YOU OVER TO MAKE
YOU CALM?

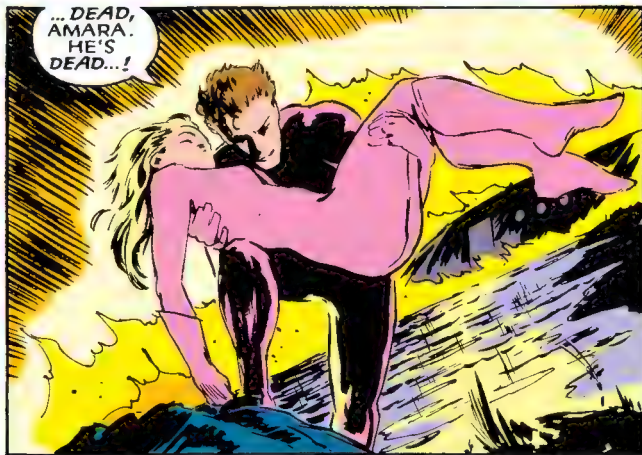
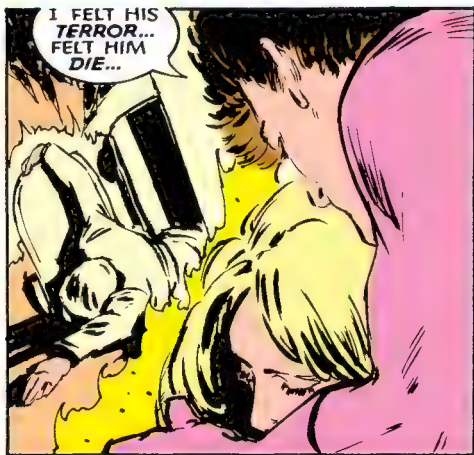
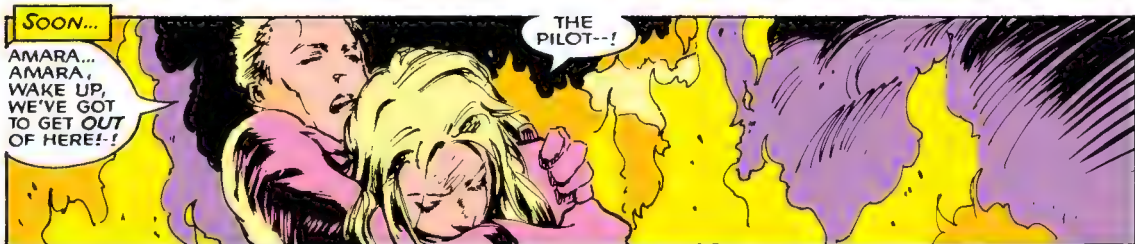


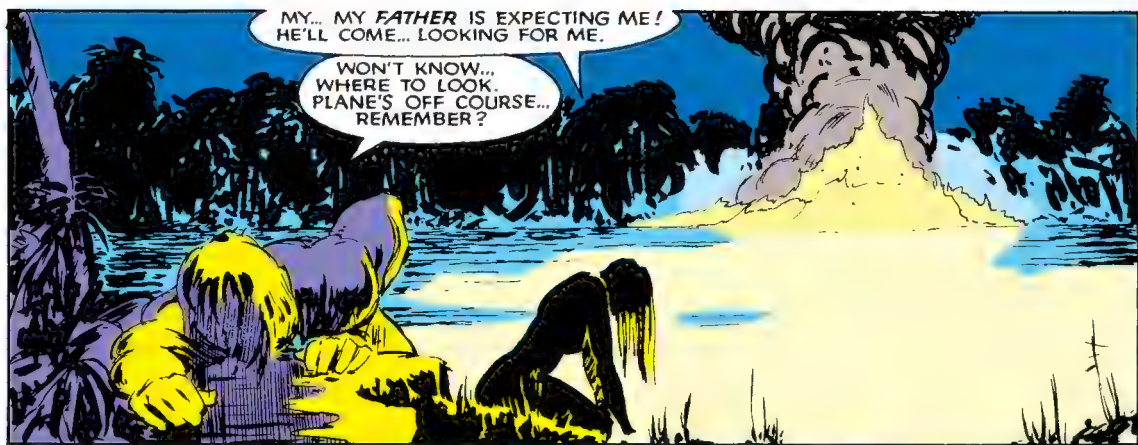
NO--!



NO!

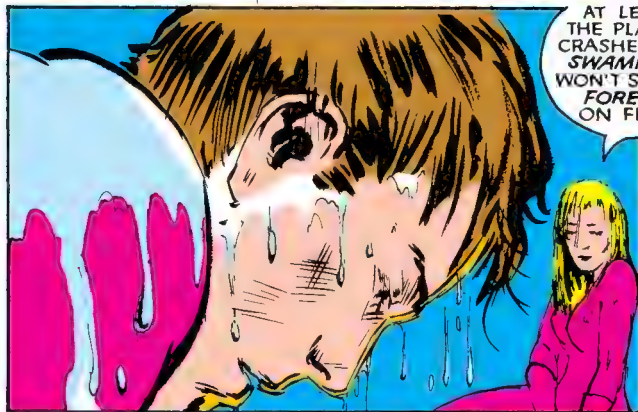
CRUNCH



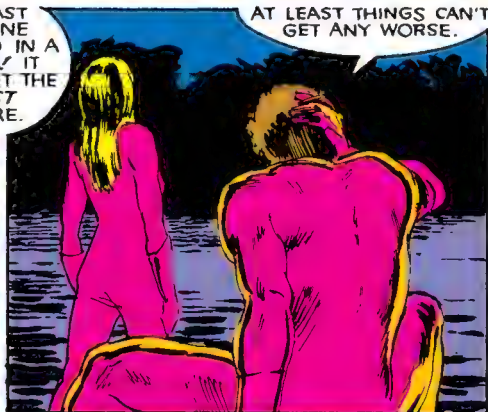


MY... MY FATHER IS EXPECTING ME!
HE'LL COME... LOOKING FOR ME.

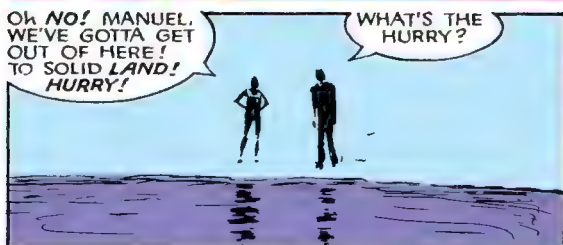
WON'T KNOW...
WHERE TO LOOK.
PLANE'S OFF COURSE...
REMEMBER?



AT LEAST
THE PLANE
CRASHED IN A
SWAMP! IT
WON'T SET THE
FOREST
ON FIRE.

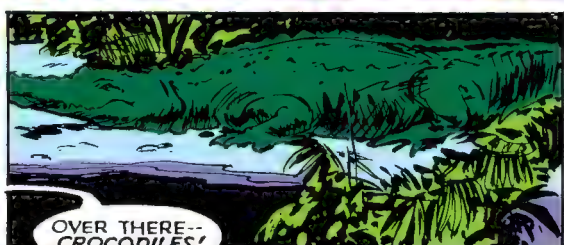


AT LEAST THINGS CAN'T
GET ANY WORSE.



Oh NO! MANUEL,
WE'VE GOTTA GET
OUT OF HERE!
TO SOLID LAND!
HURRY!

WHAT'S THE
HURRY?



OVER THERE--
CROCODILES!



SEVERAL RAIN-FILLED
DAYS LATER...

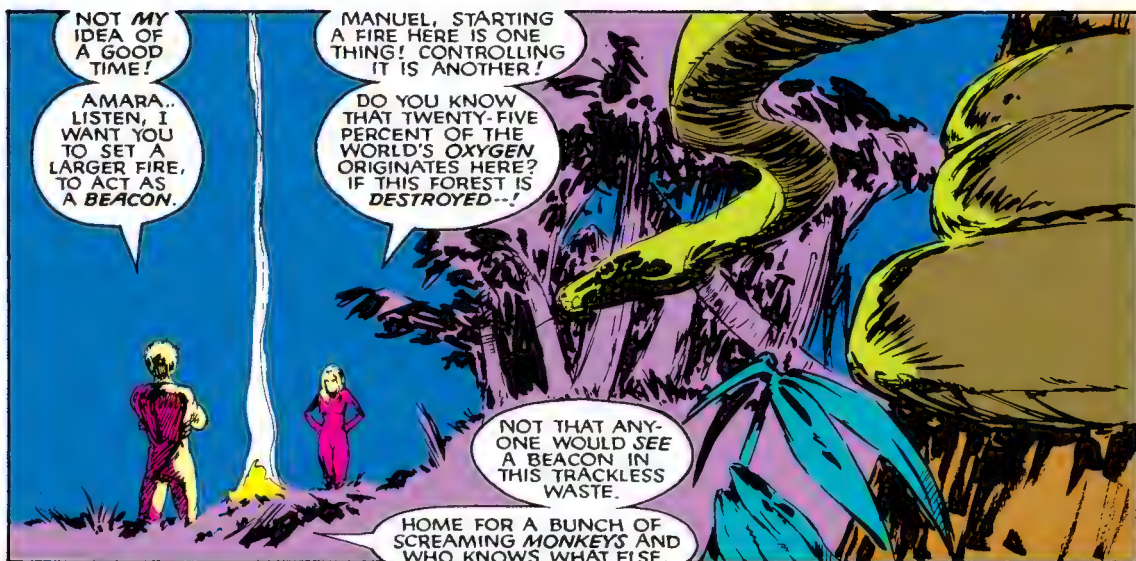
BOINK

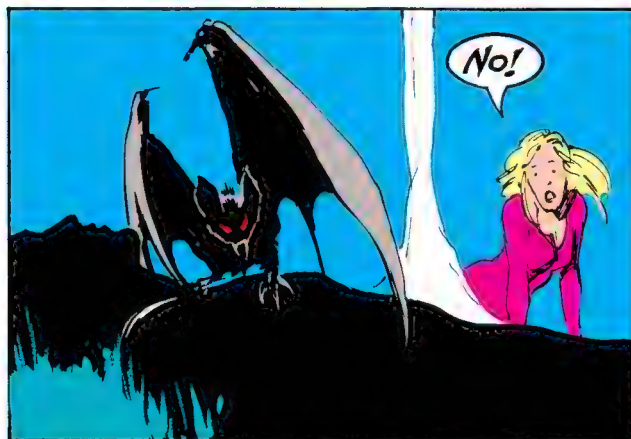
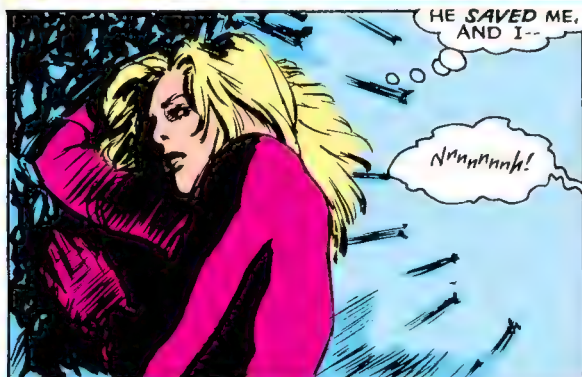
WHAT
WAS
THAT?



MONKEYS. THIS
IS THE PRIMITIVE
JUNGLE ENVIRON-
MENT I CAME
FROM, MANUEL!

OR CLOSE
TO IT! FOR
AWHILE, I
LIVED IN THESE
FORESTS
AS AN
AMAZON.





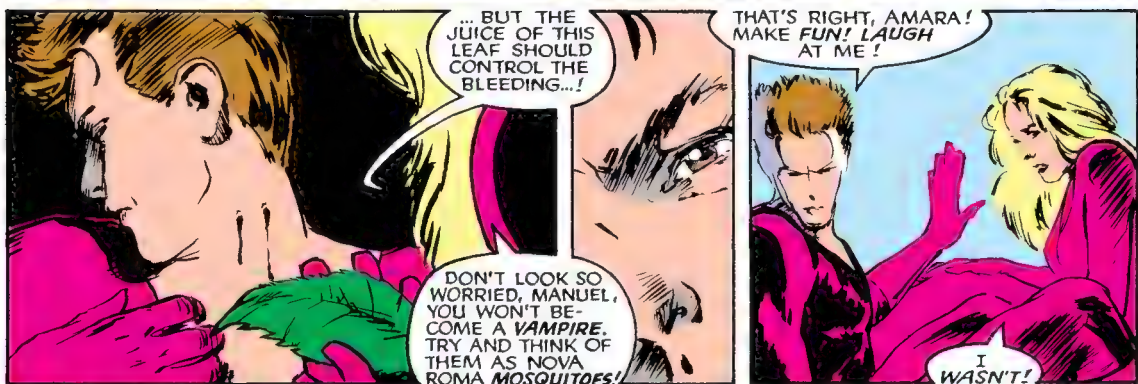


WHAT WAS IT?

VAMPIRE BAT.

THEY SWARM AT NIGHT NEAR THE MOUNTAINS. IT MEANS WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO MY HOME.

THEIR SALIVA CONTAINS AN ANTI-COAGULANT...



... BUT THE JUICE OF THIS LEAF SHOULD CONTROL THE BLEEDING...!

THAT'S RIGHT, AMARA! MAKE FUN! LAUGH AT ME!

DON'T LOOK SO WORRIED, MANUEL, YOU WON'T BECOME A VAMPIRE. TRY AND THINK OF THEM AS NOVA ROMA MOSQUITOES!

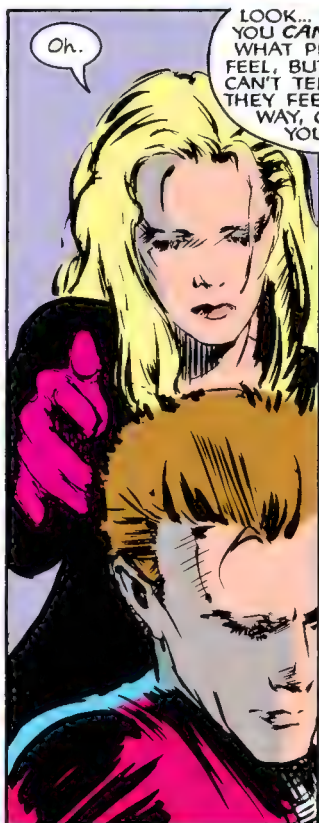
I WASN'T!



HA! YOU THINK I CAN'T TELL WHAT YOU FEEL? DON'T FEEL IT FROM YOU?

I FEEL IT ALL! EVERYTHING EVERYONE AROUND ME FEELS. TAROT, YOU, I'M BOMBARDED WITH IT.

BELIEVE ME, I KNOW... MUCH MORE THAN I WANT TO... ABOUT HOW YOU FEEL.

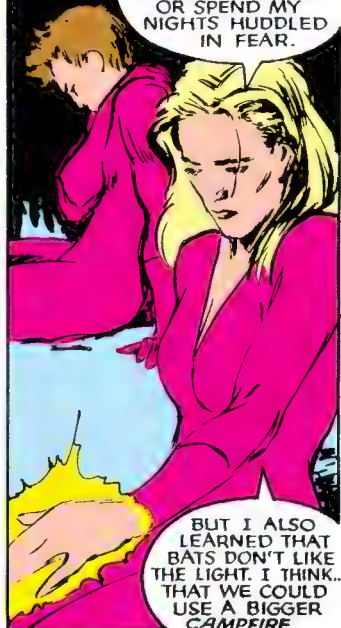


Oh.

LOOK... MAYBE YOU CAN TELL WHAT PEOPLE FEEL, BUT YOU CAN'T TELL WHY THEY FEEL THAT WAY, CAN YOU?

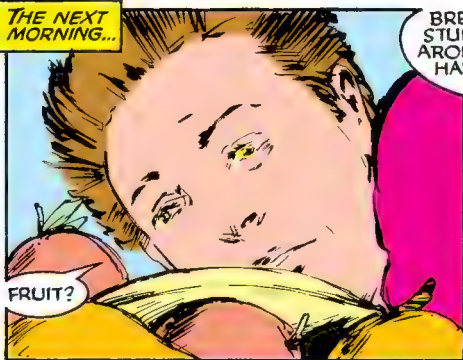
WHEN I WAS REALLY LITTLE, A BAT TANGLED ITSELF IN MY HAIR. FOR YEARS I DREAMED ABOUT IT... AND WOKE UP SCREAMING.

BUT BATS WERE ALL AROUND US. AND I HAD TO LEARN TO LAUGH... OR SPEND MY NIGHTS HUDDLED IN FEAR.

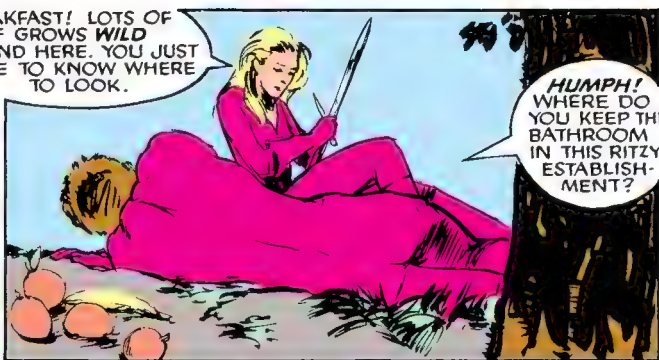


BUT I ALSO LEARNED THAT BATS DON'T LIKE THE LIGHT. I THINK... THAT WE COULD USE A BIGGER CAMPFIRE.

THE NEXT MORNING...



BREAKFAST! LOTS OF STUFF GROWS WILD AROUND HERE. YOU JUST HAVE TO KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.

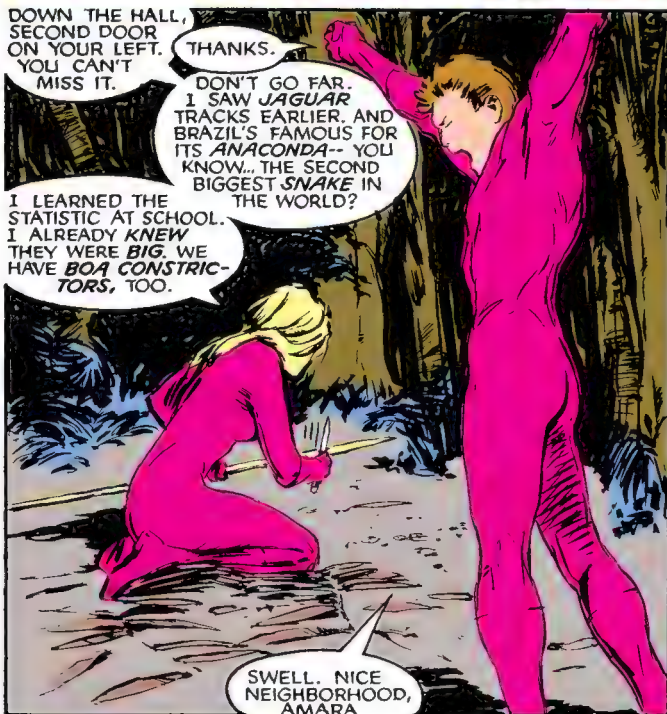


DOWN THE HALL, SECOND DOOR ON YOUR LEFT. YOU CAN'T MISS IT.

THANKS.

DON'T GO FAR. I SAW JAGUAR TRACKS EARLIER, AND BRAZIL'S FAMOUS FOR ITS ANACONDA-- YOU KNOW... THE SECOND BIGGEST SNAKE IN THE WORLD?

I LEARNED THE STATISTIC AT SCHOOL. I ALREADY KNEW THEY WERE BIG. WE HAVE BOA CONSTRUCTORS, TOO.



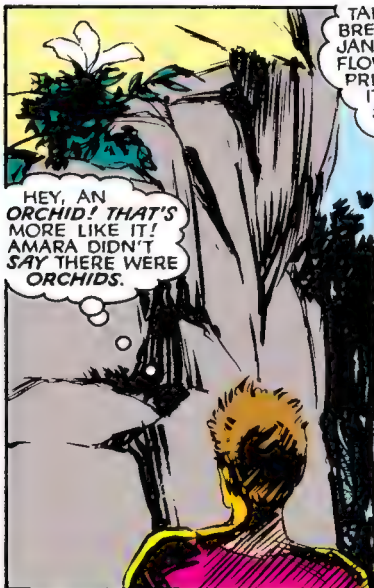
SWELL. NICE NEIGHBORHOOD, AMARA.



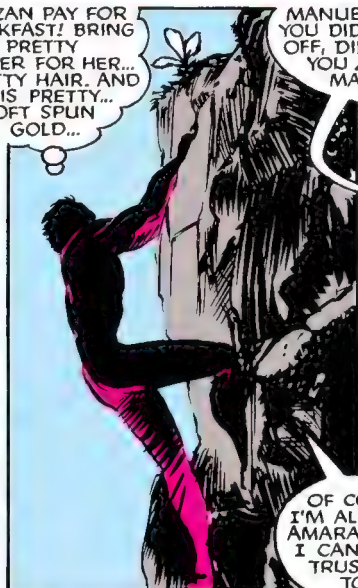
NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, OF COURSE...

... A ZOOLOGIST'S PARADISE...

... BUT I'LL TAKE RIO ANY DAY!



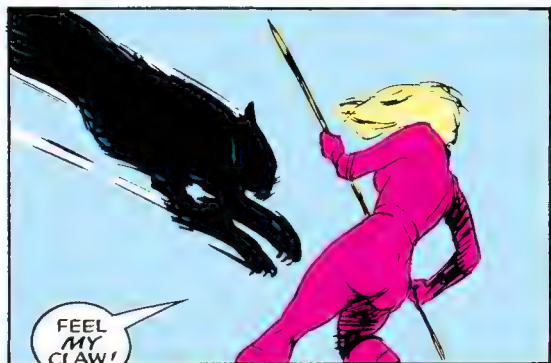
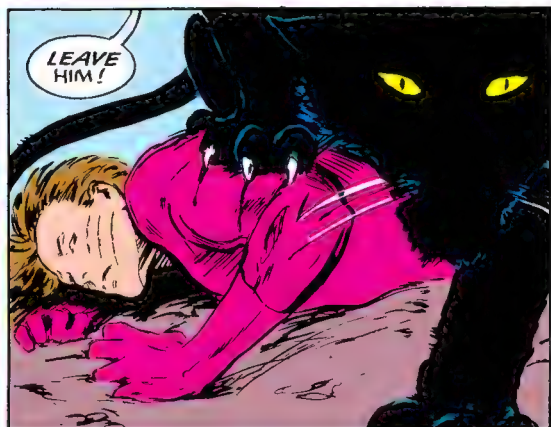
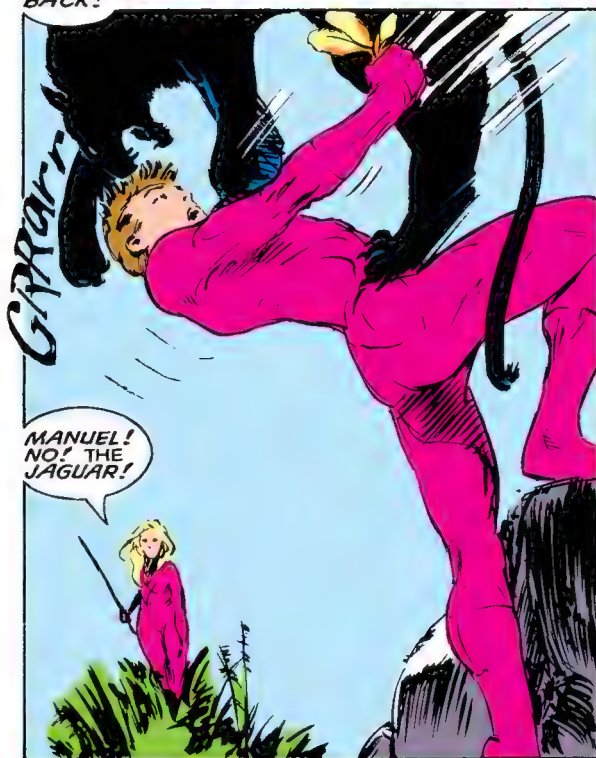
TARZAN PAY FOR BREAKFAST! BRING JANE PRETTY FLOWER FOR HER... PRETTY HAIR. AND IT IS PRETTY... SOFT SPUN GOLD...

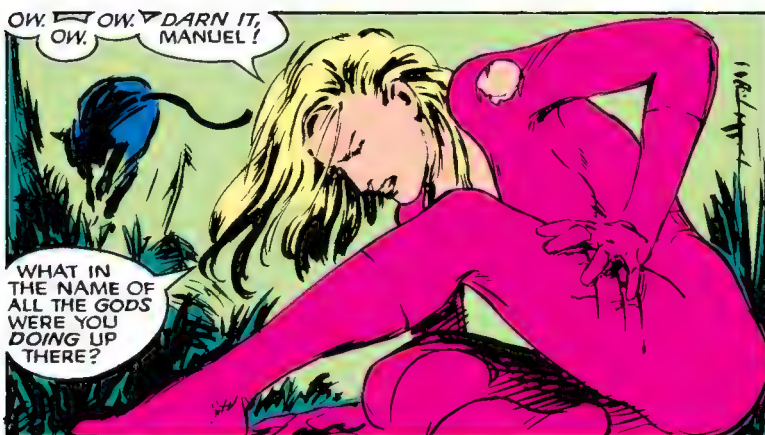


MANUEL? MANUEL?! YOU DIDN'T WANDER OFF, DID YOU? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MANUEL?



OF COURSE I'M ALL RIGHT, AMARA. EVEN I CAN BE TRUSTED TO--





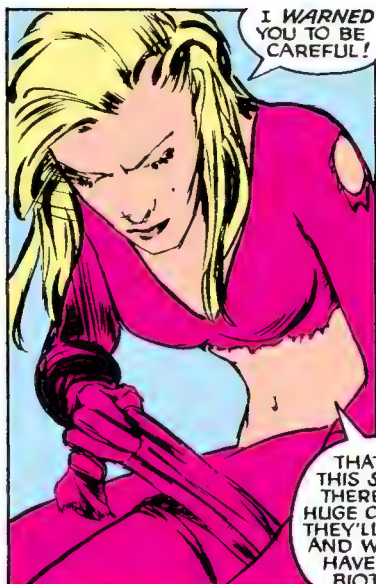
OW. OW. DARN IT, MANUEL!

WHAT IN THE NAME OF ALL THE GODS WERE YOU DOING UP THERE?



ME...? JUST...

...NOTHING.



I WARNED YOU TO BE CAREFUL!

THAT BITE, THIS SCRATCH-- THERE'S A HUGE CHANCE THEY'LL FESTER! AND WE DON'T HAVE ANTI-BIOTICS.



BUT SURELY SOME HANDY NATIVE REMEDY WILL SUFFICE?

YOU'RE SO SUPERIOR HERE IN YOUR JUNGLE, AMARA. SO SELF SUFFICIENT. ALMOST AS IF YOU DON'T WANT US TO BE RESCUED!

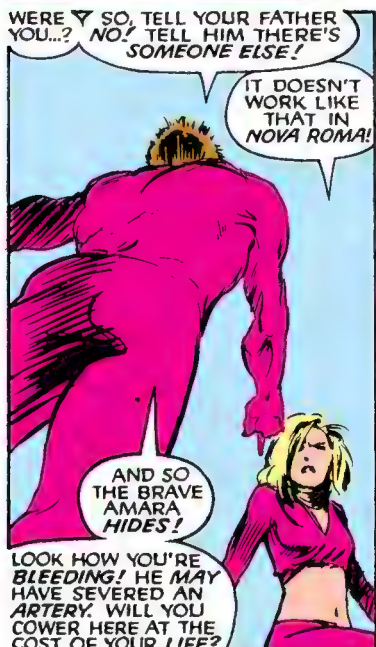


YOU KNOW WHAT I FEEL...! I DON'T WANT TO BE RESCUED! I HAVE GOOD REASON!

WHAT REASON...?

MY FATHER... HE WANTS ME HOME SO HE CAN MARRY ME OFF.

I'VE NEVER EVEN MET MY... BETROTHED. I WAS JUST SETTLING IN WITH THE HELLIONS. I WAS SO HAPPY.



WERE YOU...? NO, TELL HIM THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE!

IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT IN NOVA ROMA!

AND SO THE BRAVE AMARA HIDES!

LOOK HOW YOU'RE BLEEDING! HE MAY HAVE SEVERED AN ARTERY. WILL YOU COWER HERE AT THE COST OF YOUR LIFE?



WE'VE GOT TO GET HELP. CALL UP A VOLCANO, AMARA. THEY'LL COME TO INVESTIGATE THAT.

AND START A JUNGLE FIRE...? WHAT RIGHT HAVE I TO DESTROY THE JUNGLE?

WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU TO TRAP US HERE... JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE FRIGHTENED TO GO HOME?



SIGNAL OUR NEED WILLINGLY, AMARA, OR I'LL MAKE YOU!

MAKE YOU AFRAID... NEED HELP... NEED TO BE RESCUED!

NO!

SHAKE THE
GROUND, AMARA.
CALL THEM TO
COME RESCUE
US!



NO!
NO!
NO!

IT'S YOUR
FEAR I FEEL!
NOT MINE!

WHAP!



I KNOW YOU'RE
AFRAID! I'M AFRAID!
WE'RE ALL-- EVERY
ONE OF US-- ALWAYS
AFRAID OF
SOMETHING!

No!

I'M AN
EMPATH.
I FEEL
WHAT YOU
FEEL!



YES,
YOU'RE
AFRAID!
YOU NEED
HELP!

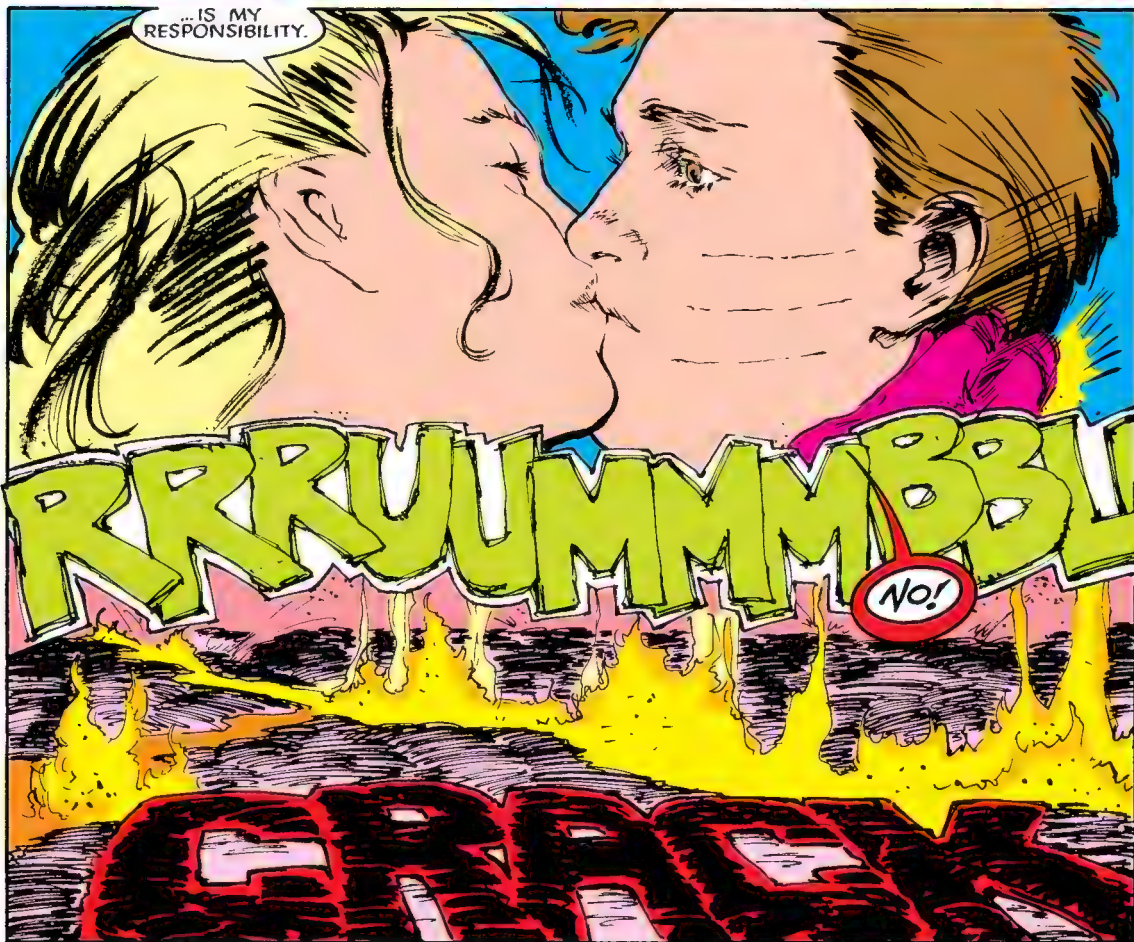
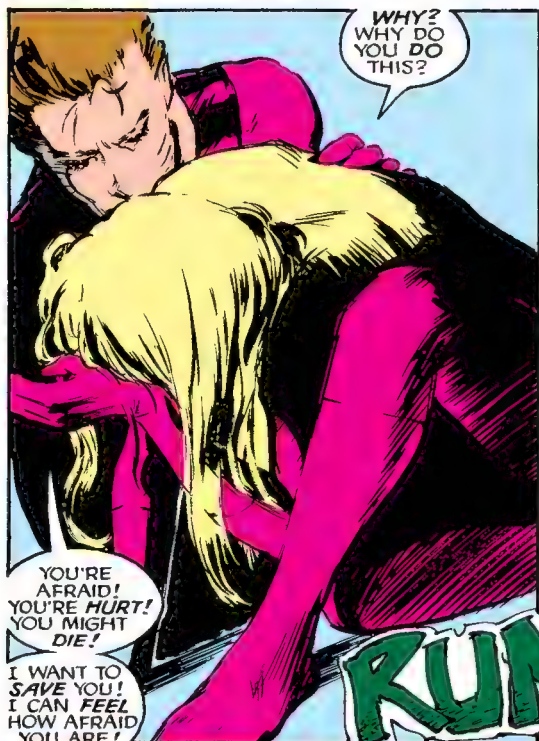
SHAKE
THE
EARTH!
MAKE A
VOLCANO!

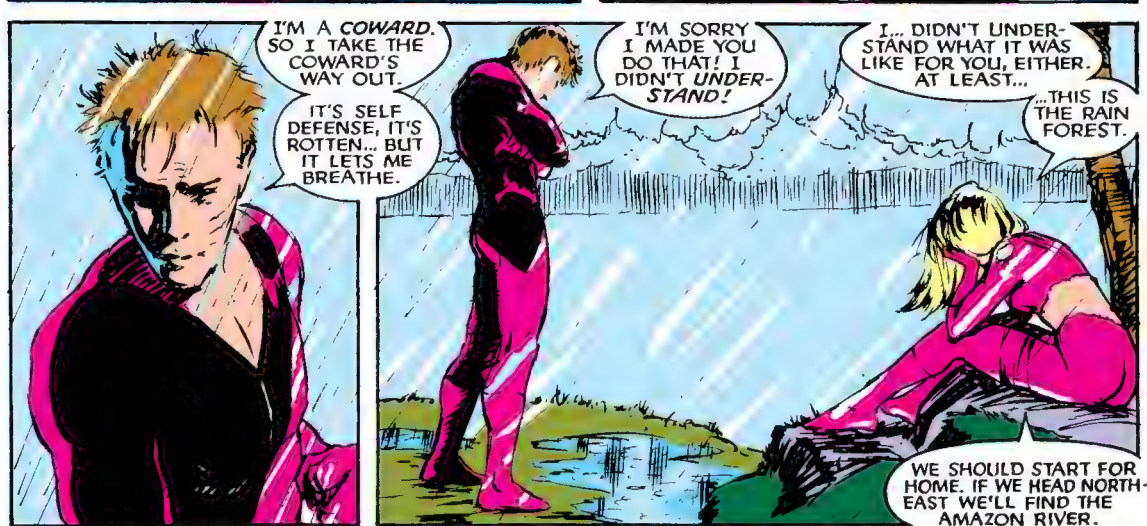
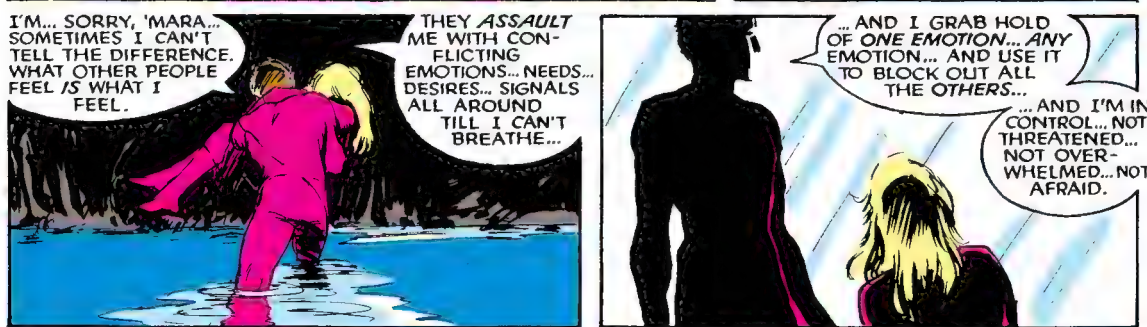
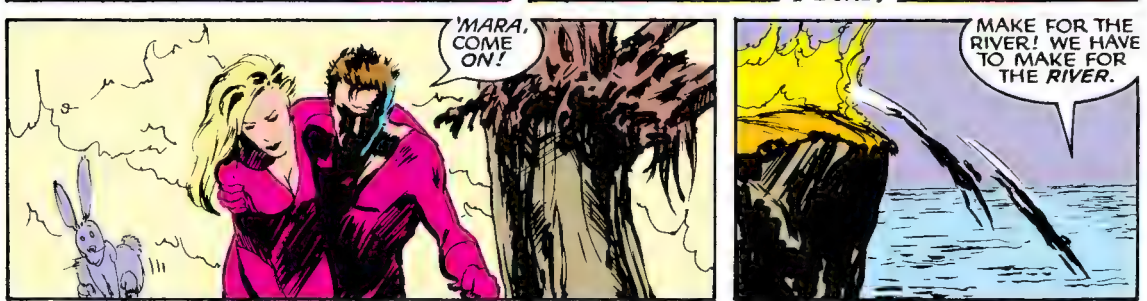
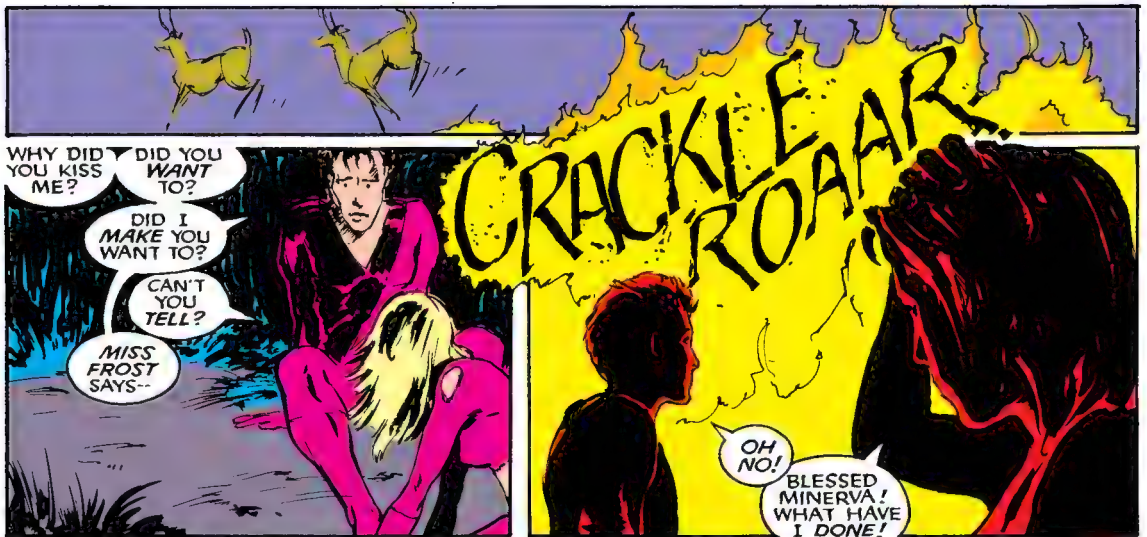
CALL
THEM!

RUMBBBLE

THAT'S RIGHT,
MY DARLING...
CALL THEM...!







DAYS LATER...

COME ON, AMARA...
JUST A LITTLE
FARTHER! THEN
WE'LL REST!

GLAD... YOU
MADE THE
SPEAR.

YEAH. USEFUL
WALKING STICK--
OW!

'MARA!

JUST... MY
LEG. IT'S
NOTHING!

NOTHING...?
IT'S SWELLED
UP LIKE A
MELON! YOU'RE
BURNING WITH
FEVER!

YOU...
SURE THAT
FEVER...
ISN'T
YOU...?

DOPE! SHHHH!
WAIT... I HEAR
SOMETHING...!

DID I
MENTION
WE USED TO
HAVE HEAD-
HUNTERS...?

AMARA...
THESE
DON'T--

FATHER!

AMARA!
DAUGHTER,
WE GOT WORD
THAT YOUR
PLANE HAD
CRASHED!

WE FELT
THE EARTH
MOVE...!
WE'VE BEEN
LOOKING
FOR YOU!

HAS THIS
RUFFIAN...?

HE'S NO
RUFFIAN,
FATHER.

I WANT
YOU TO MEET
MANUEL
de la ROCHA.
HE'S MY
TEAMMATE...
AND MY
FRIEND...!

I HOPE
THAT HE'LL
BE YOURS!

NEXT:
MAGIK'S NIGHTMARE!
BE THERE.

MARVEL®

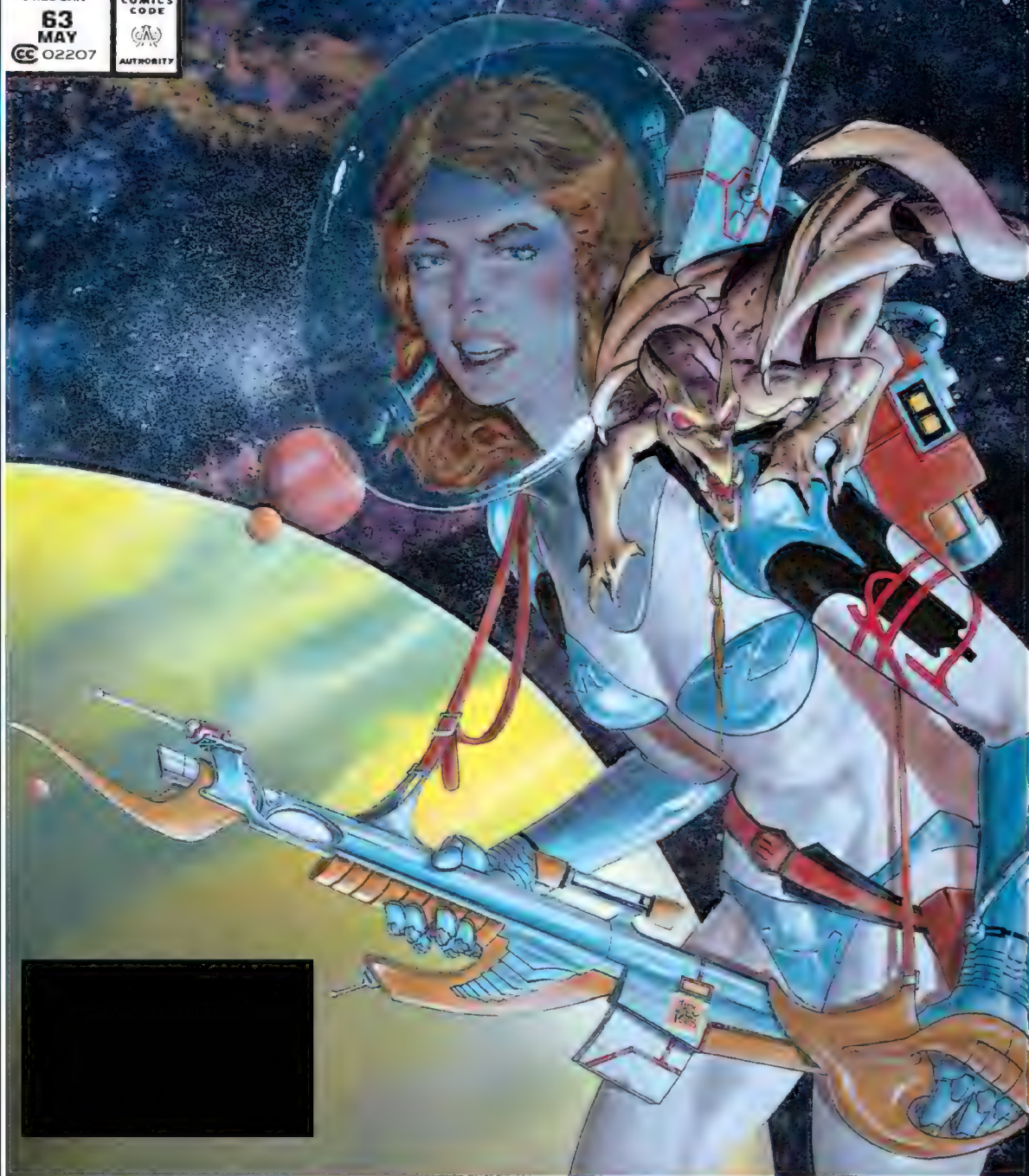


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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE NEW MUTANTS®



I WAS IN MY ROOM, STUDYING. *THAT'S* WHAT MADE IT SEEM SO REAL. IT TAKES TIME TO CATCH UP, LEARN... *HUMAN* THINGS, LIKE HISTORY AND ALGEBRA.

I'D GROWN UP IN ANOTHER DIMENSION, AND THE THINGS I LEARNED THERE HADN'T PREPARED ME FOR *XAVIER'S* CURRICULUM.

IT WAS WHEN I BEGAN TO WRITE IT DOWN THAT I REALIZED *WHY* IT WAS IMPORTANT!

VA - VOOM! THAT'S SOME *ARMOR*, ILLYANA! GOING TO A *COSTUME* PARTY?

WELL... I WAS THINKING ABOUT WEARING IT NEXT HALLOWEEN, BUT I COULDN'T!

KITTY WAS THERE AND THAT WAS ODD. SHE WAS AN *X-MAN* AND SHE WAS MY BEST FRIEND.

SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IN SCOTLAND, RE-CUPERATING FROM A DEADLY WOUND. *THAT'S* WHAT SAVED HER LIFE.

I *KNOW*! HEY, CAREFUL WITH THAT *GUN*! IT WORKS!

Oh, YEAH? SO... WHY WOULDN'T YOU WEAR IT? WHERE'D YOU GET IT, ANYWAY?

IT'S A LONG STORY, KITTY, AND I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR STORIES NOW! I'VE GOTTA STUDY, YA KNOW?

AFTER ALL, THIS IS A SCHOOL!

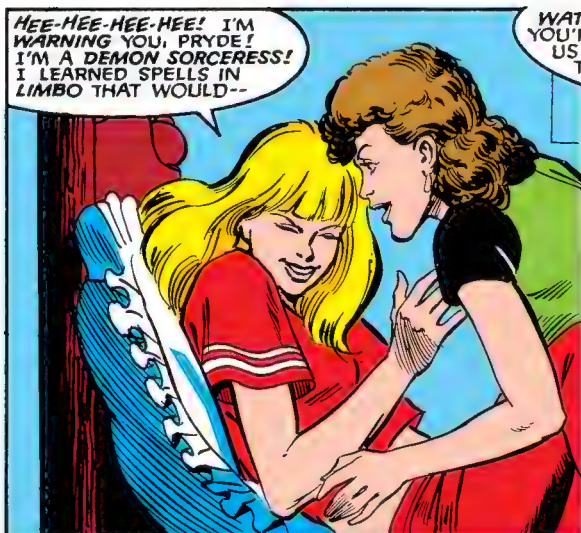
AND WE ARE HERE TO LEARN MORE THAN JUST HOW TO CONTROL OUR POWERS!

AND MIDTERMS ARE COMING UP! YOU MAY NOT NEED TO CRACK THE BOOKS, SUPER-BRAIN, BUT I--

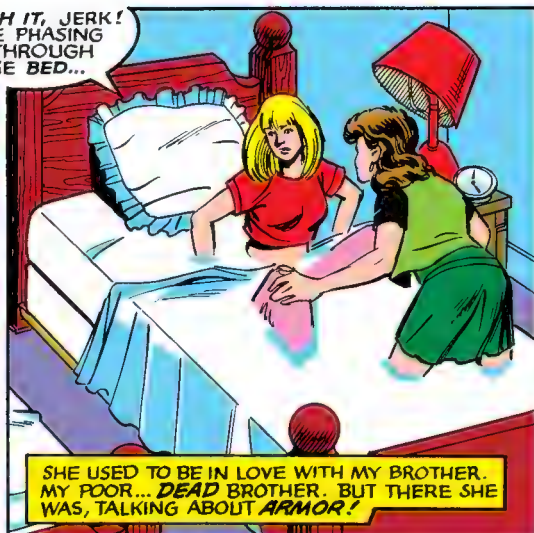
YOU WILL TELL ME VOT I WANT TO KNOW! VE HAVE VAYS TO MAKE YOU TALK!

TICKLE-TICKLE-TICKLE!

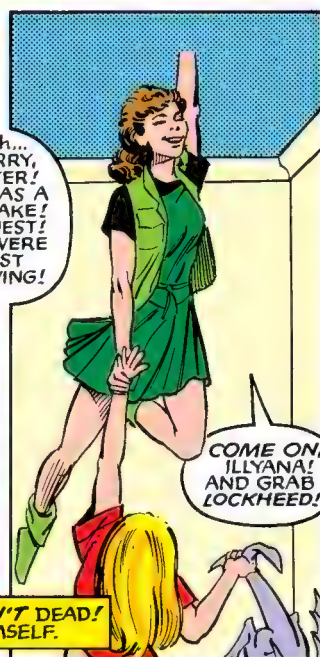
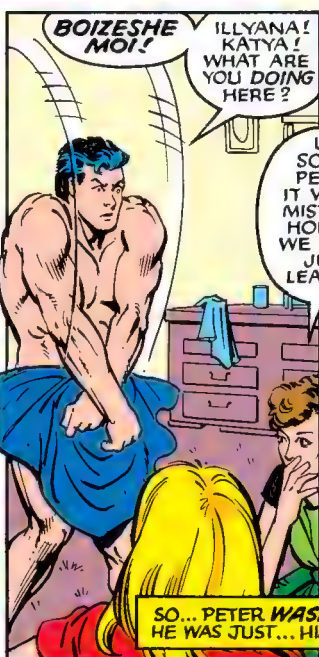
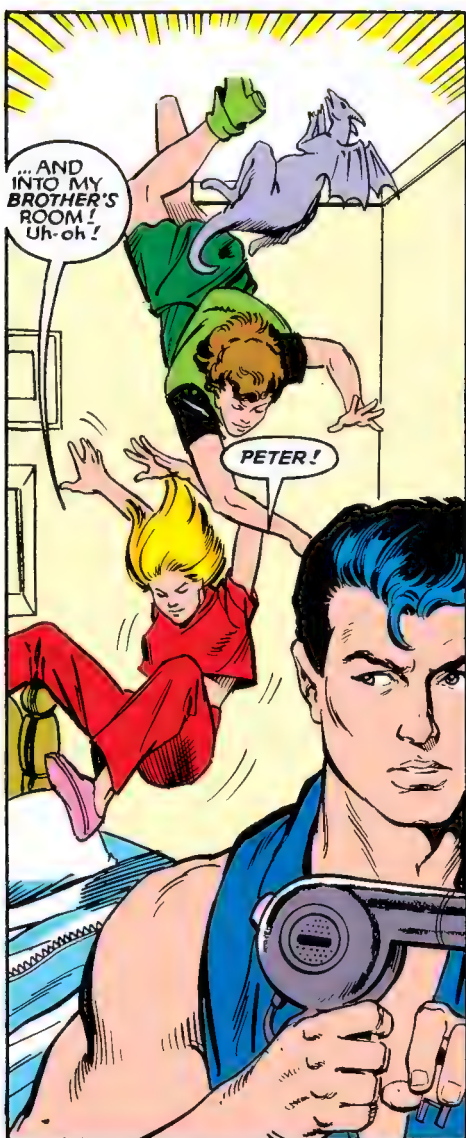
HEY, KITTY, CUT IT OUT!



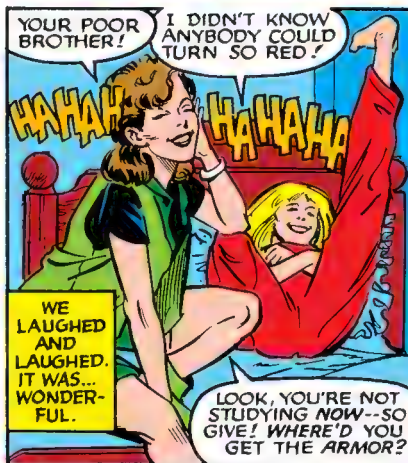
WATCH IT, JERK!
YOU'RE PHASING
US THROUGH
THE BED...



SHE USED TO BE IN LOVE WITH MY BROTHER.
MY POOR... **DEAD** BROTHER. BUT THERE SHE
WAS, TALKING ABOUT **ARMOR**!

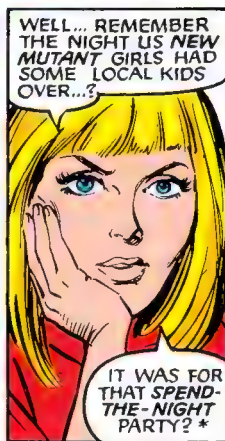


SO... PETER **WASN'T** DEAD!
HE WAS JUST... HIMSELF.



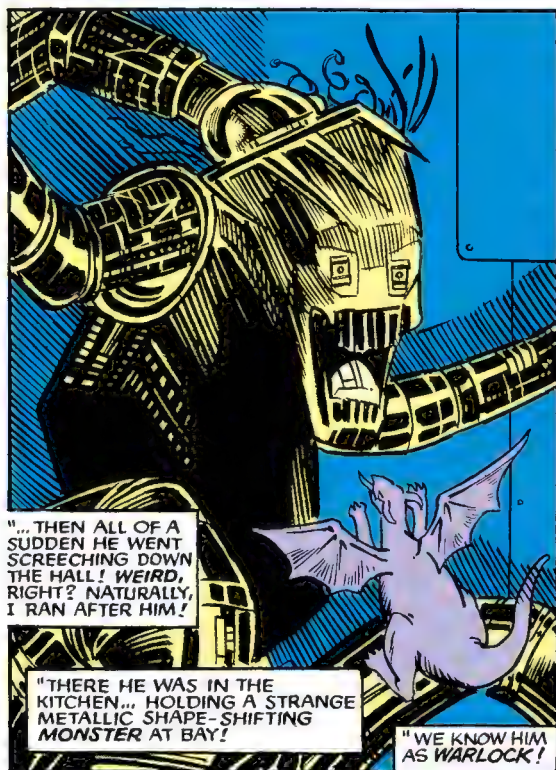
WE
LAUGHED
AND
LAUGHED
IT WAS...
WONDER-
FUL.

LOOK, YOU'RE NOT
STUDYING NOW--SO
GIVE! WHERE'D YOU
GET THE ARMOR?



*IN NEW MUTANTS #21-A

"YOU'D GONE OFF LIKE USUAL WITH THE X-MEN AND ASKED ME TO KEEP LOCKHEED, REMEMBER? AT FIRST HE WAS FINE..."

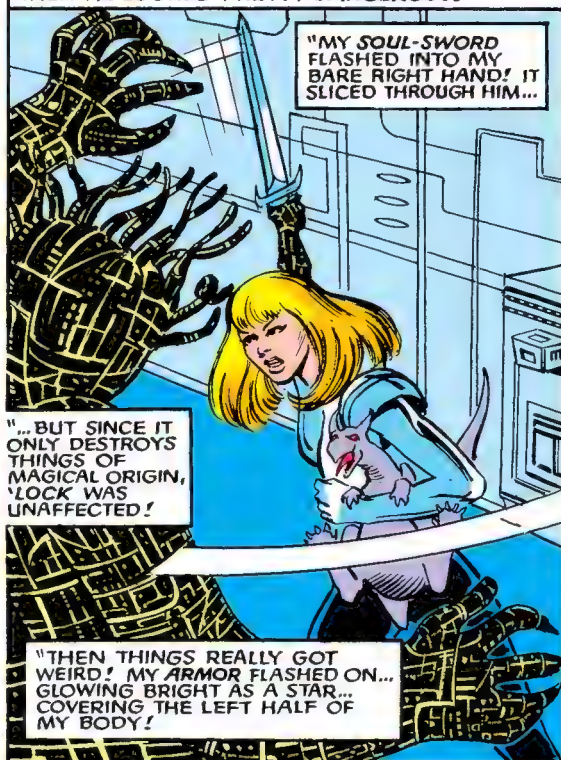


"... THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN HE WENT SCREECHING DOWN THE HALL! WEIRD, RIGHT? NATURALLY, I RAN AFTER HIM!"

"THERE HE WAS IN THE KITCHEN... HOLDING A STRANGE METALLIC SHAPE-SHIFTING MONSTER AT BAY!"

"WE KNOW HIM AS WARLOCK!"

"OF COURSE, NOW I KNOW 'LOCK'S A CONFUSED, METAL-BABY FROM OUTER SPACE, BUT RIGHT THEN HE LOOKED PRETTY DANGEROUS!"

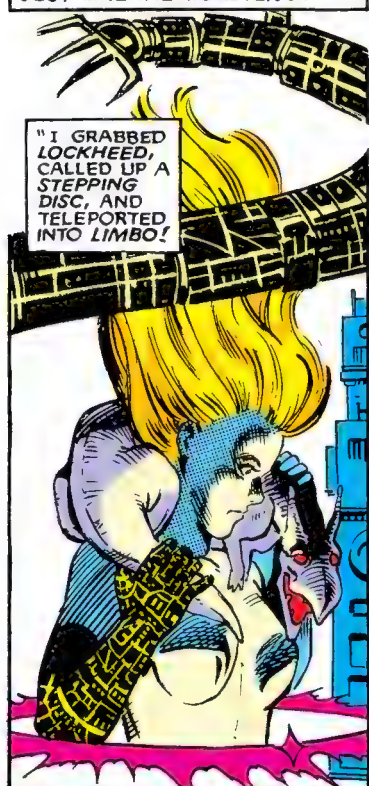


"MY SOUL-SWORD FLASHED INTO MY BARE RIGHT HAND! IT SLICED THROUGH HIM..."

"... BUT SINCE IT ONLY DESTROYS THINGS OF MAGICAL ORIGIN, 'LOCK WAS UNAFFECTED!"

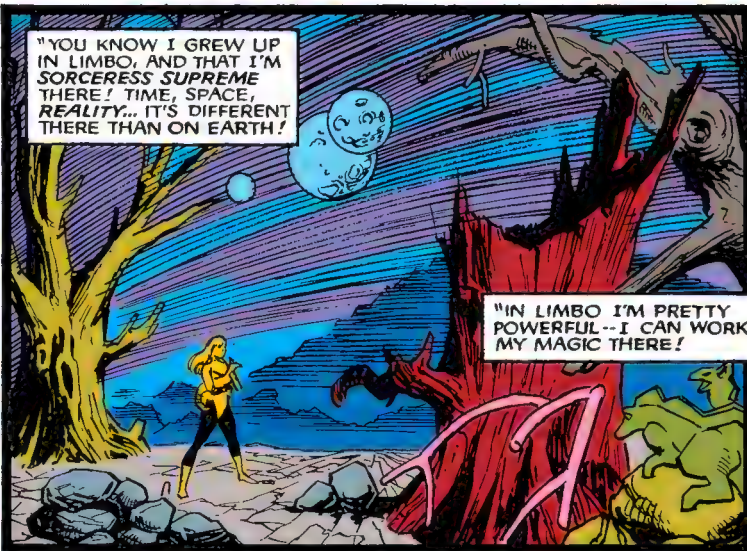
"THEN THINGS REALLY GOT WEIRD! MY ARMOR FLASHED ON... GLOWING BRIGHT AS A STAR... COVERING THE LEFT HALF OF MY BODY!"

"MY RIGHT HAND WAS COVERED WITH A FINE WEB OF CIRCUITRY, JUST LIKE THE MONSTER'S!"

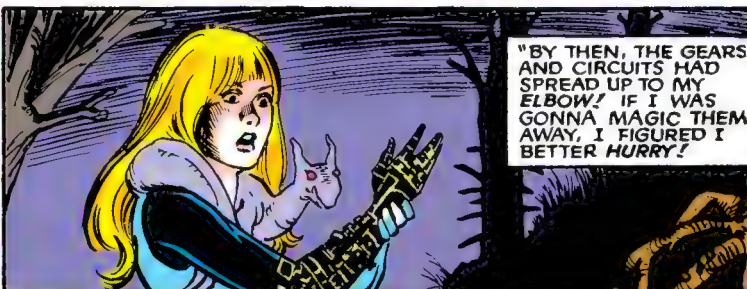


"I GRABBED LOCKHEED, CALLED UP A STEPPING DISC, AND TELEPORTED INTO LIMBO!"

"YOU KNOW I GREW UP IN LIMBO, AND THAT I'M SORCERESS SUPREME THERE! TIME, SPACE, REALITY... IT'S DIFFERENT THERE THAN ON EARTH!"



"IN LIMBO I'M PRETTY POWERFUL--I CAN WORK MY MAGIC THERE!"



"BY THEN, THE GEARS AND CIRCUITS HAD SPREAD UP TO MY ELBOW! IF I WAS GONNA MAGIC THEM AWAY, I FIGURED I BETTER HURRY!"

"THE FIRST THING I LEARNED AS A KID TRAPPED
IN LIMBO WAS NOT TO TRUST *ANYBODY*!"

"THE SECOND THING WAS ESPECIALLY
NOT TO TRUST *DEMONS*!"

YOU AWAY
LONG TIME,
MISTRESS
ILLYANA! AWAY
FROM LIMBO--
HOME OF
DEMONS!

YOU LITTLE
HUMAN
GIRL! YOU NOT
BELONG
HERE!

"IN ALL THE DIFFERENT
REALITIES I'D
TRAVELLED TO--*LIMBO*...
THE *EARTH*... SEVERAL
POSSIBLE *FUTURES*--

-- THE X-MEN *DIED*.
IN SOME, I KILLED
THEM. IN SOME, I
COULDN'T SAVE
THEM. THE RESULT
WAS THE SAME.

IT WASN'T *FAIR*! I'D
SOONER CUT OFF MY
RIGHT ARM THAN
HURT THEM. "

I DO BELONG
HERE! I PAID FOR
THE RIGHT IN *BLOOD*!
WITH MY OWN BLOOD
AND THE BLOOD OF
THOSE THAT I
HOLD DEAR!

THE X-MEN
WERE *SLAIN* IN
THIS REALITY! SOME
DIED BECAUSE I WAS
HELPLESS TO STOP IT!
SOME DIED BY
MY HAND!

HOW
DARE
YOU!

Redemption

CHRIS
CLAREMONT
PLOT

LOUISE
SIMONSON
SCRIPT

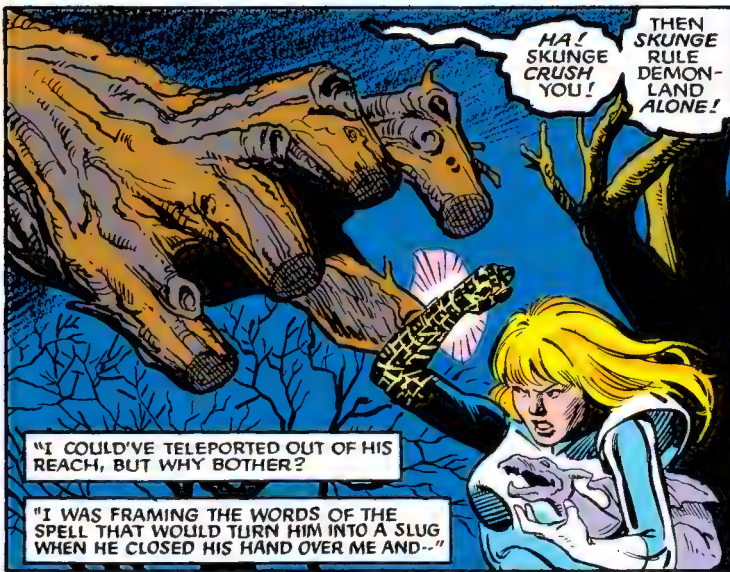
BO HAMPTON &
JOE RUBINSTEIN
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ORZECZOWSKI
LETTERER

NEL
YOMTOV
COLORIST

ANN
NOCENTI
EDITOR

TOM
DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF



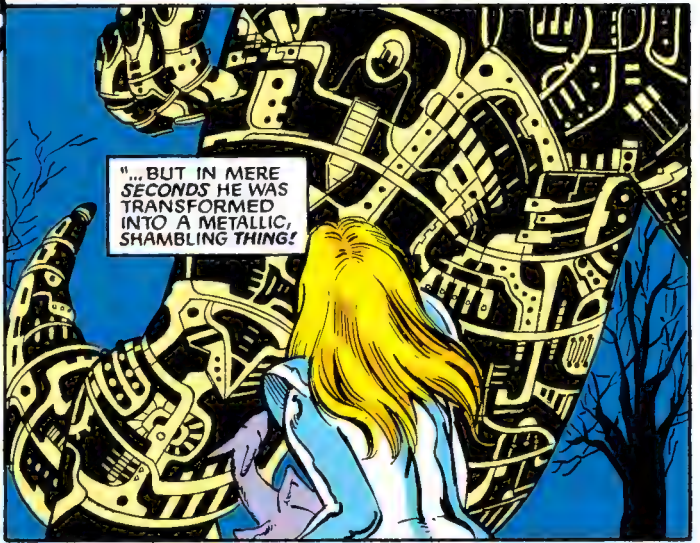
"I COULD'VE TELEPORTED OUT OF HIS REACH, BUT WHY BOTHER?"

"I WAS FRAMING THE WORDS OF THE SPELL THAT WOULD TURN HIM INTO A SLUG WHEN HE CLOSED HIS HAND OVER ME AND..."

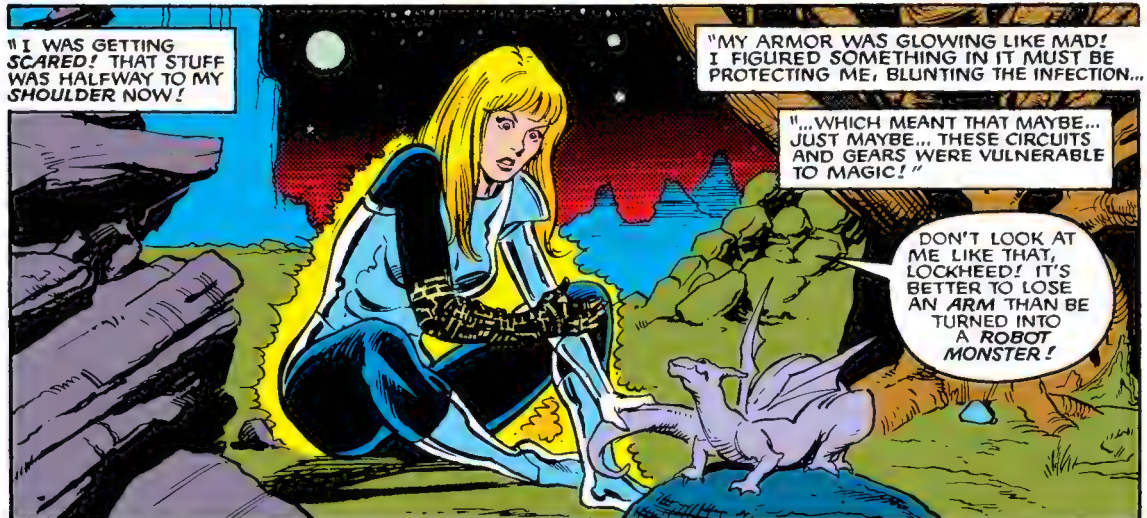


MISTRESS, WHAT YOU DO TO POOR, LOYAL SKUNGE...?

"AND THEN I FREAKED, BIG TIME! HE'D BARELY BRUSHED ME... I SWEAR HE HAD..."



"...BUT IN MERE SECONDS HE WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A METALLIC, SHAMBLING THING!"



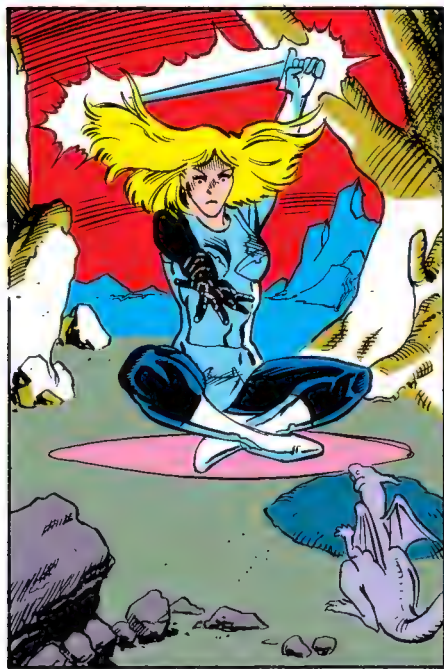
"I WAS GETTING SCARED! THAT STUFF WAS HALFWAY TO MY SHOULDER NOW!"

"MY ARMOR WAS GLOWING LIKE MAD! I FIGURED SOMETHING IN IT MUST BE PROTECTING ME, BLUNTING THE INFECTION..."

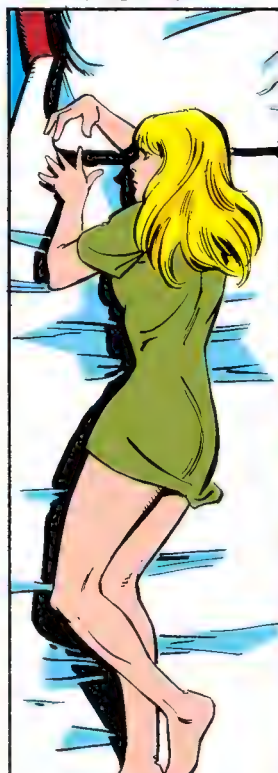
"...WHICH MEANT THAT MAYBE... JUST MAYBE... THESE CIRCUITS AND GEARS WERE VULNERABLE TO MAGIC!"

"DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, LOCKHEED! IT'S BETTER TO LOSE AN ARM THAN BE TURNED INTO A ROBOT MONSTER!"

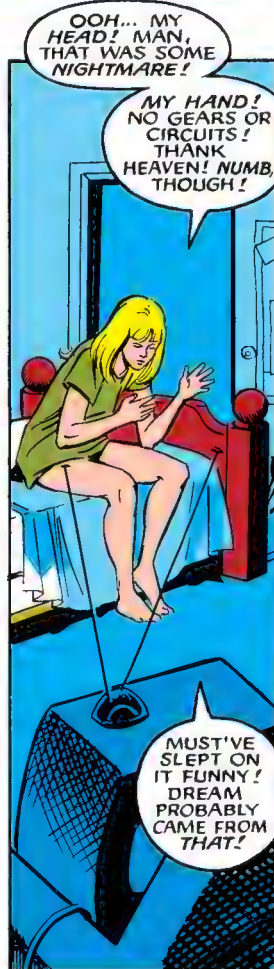
"AS I RAISED MY ARM, MY SOULSWORD
LEAPT, GLEAMING, INTO MY ARMORED HAND!



"I WOKE UP BACK AT THE
SCHOOL, SPRAWLED
ACROSS YOUR BED! I WAS
IN MY NIGHTSHIRT! NO
ARMOR, NO SWORD..."

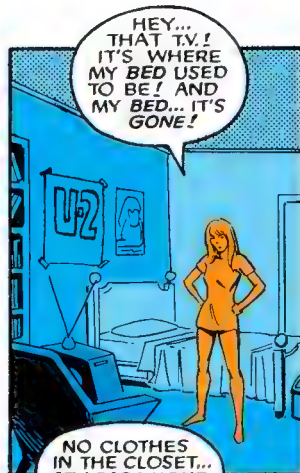


"IT WAS ALL A DREAM, I
THOUGHT, AND PETER'S
ALIVE... AND DOUG AND
STORM AND WOLVERINE!"

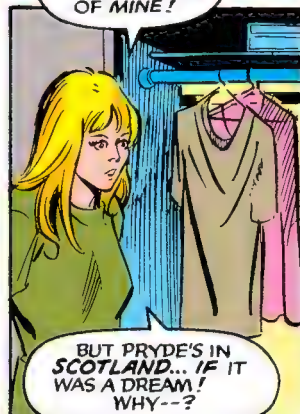


"MY HAND!
NO GEARS OR
CIRCUITS!
THANK
HEAVEN! NUMB,
THOUGH!"

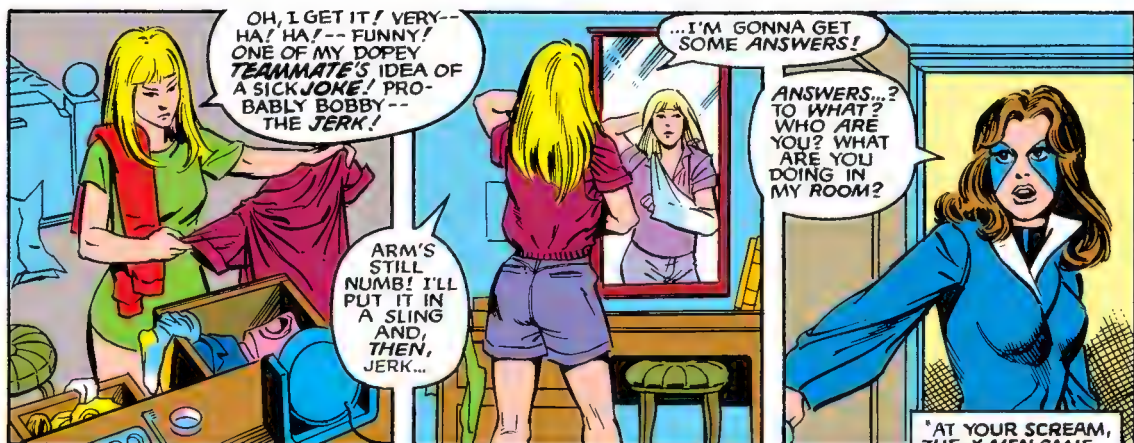
"MUST'VE
SLEPT ON
IT FUNNY!
DREAM
PROBABLY
CAME FROM
THAT!"



"NO CLOTHES
IN THE CLOSET...
AT LEAST NONE
OF MINE!"



"BUT PRYDE'S IN
SCOTLAND... IF IT
WAS A DREAM!
WHY--?"



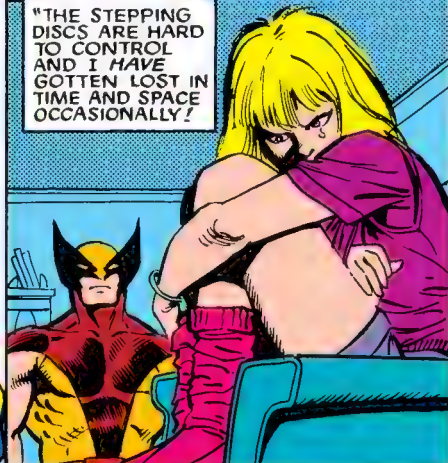
IN THE HANGAR!
WHERE ELSE
WOULD WE KEEP
A PLANE THAT
SIZE?



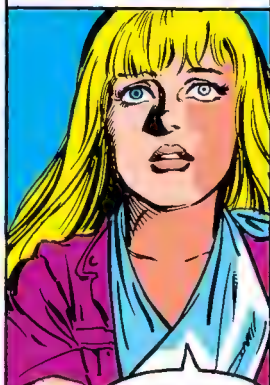
"THEY DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A DRAGON!
THEN I KNEW!"

"THE CIRCUIT MONSTER
WAS NO DREAM, AFTER ALL! HE REALLY
DID INFECT ME!"

"THE STEPPING
DISCS ARE HARD
TO CONTROL
AND I HAVE
GOTTEN LOST IN
TIME AND SPACE
OCCASIONALLY!"



"WHEN I TELEPORTED
TO SAVE THE X-MEN, I
MUST HAVE LANDED IN
THE PAST, BACK BEFORE
I JOINED THE NEW
MUTANTS... OR INTO ANOTHER
TIMELINE ALTOGETHER!"

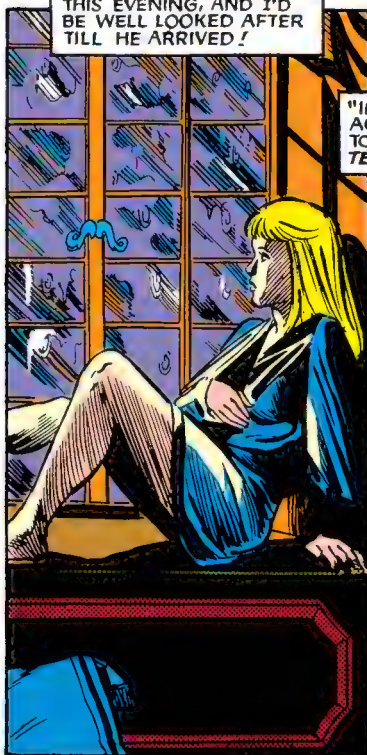


WHAT ABOUT
PROFESSOR
XAVIER? HE IS
YOUR LEADER...
ISN'T HE? HE
COULD READ MY
MIND, SEE THAT
I'M TELLING
THE TRUTH...

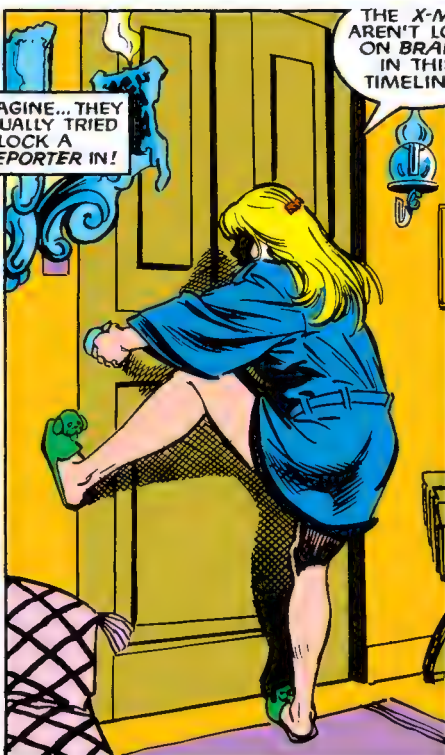
"...AND MAYBE, IF I
WAS LUCKY HE'D
FIGURE OUT WHEN I
WAS... AND HOW I
COULD GET HOME!"



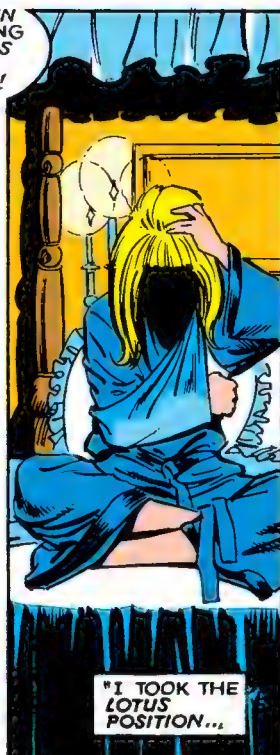
"PROFESSOR X WAS OUT,
THEY SAID. HE'D BE HOME
THIS EVENING, AND I'D
BE WELL LOOKED AFTER
TILL HE ARRIVED!"



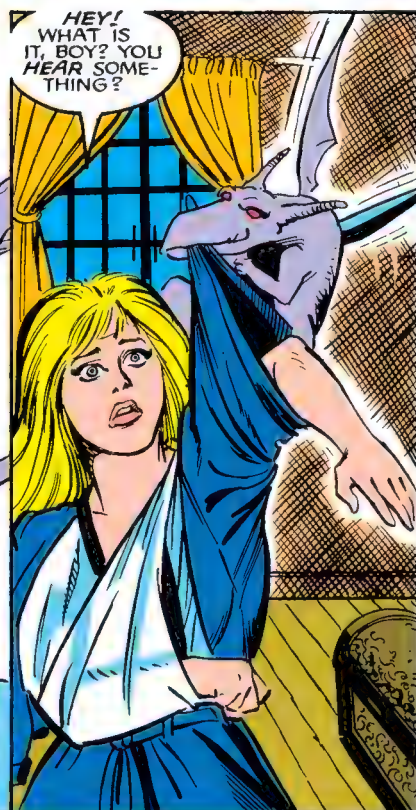
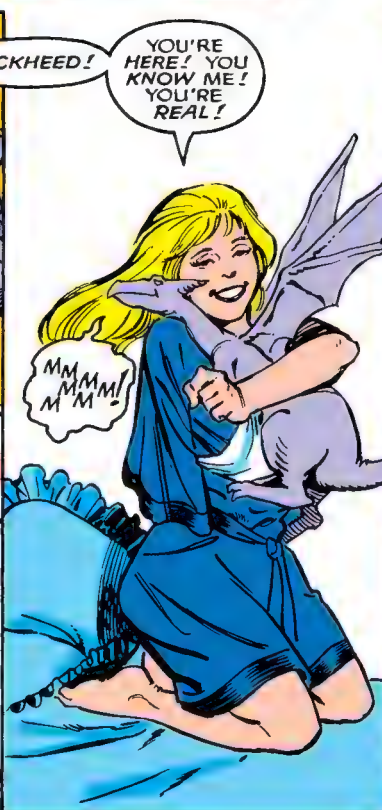
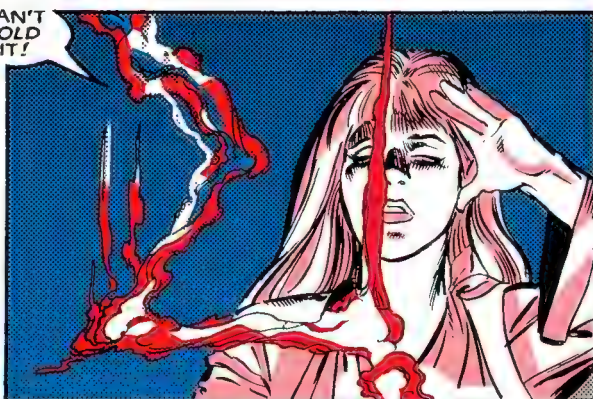
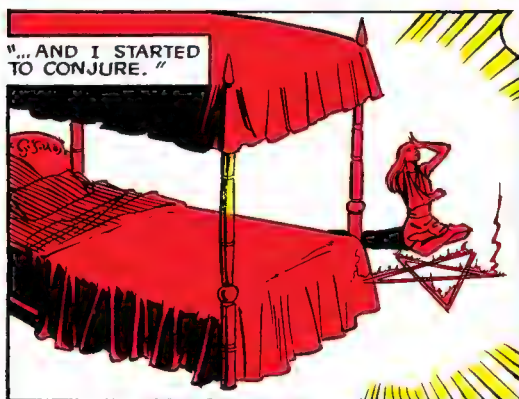
"IMAGINE... THEY
ACTUALLY TRIED
TO LOCK A
TELEPORTER IN!"

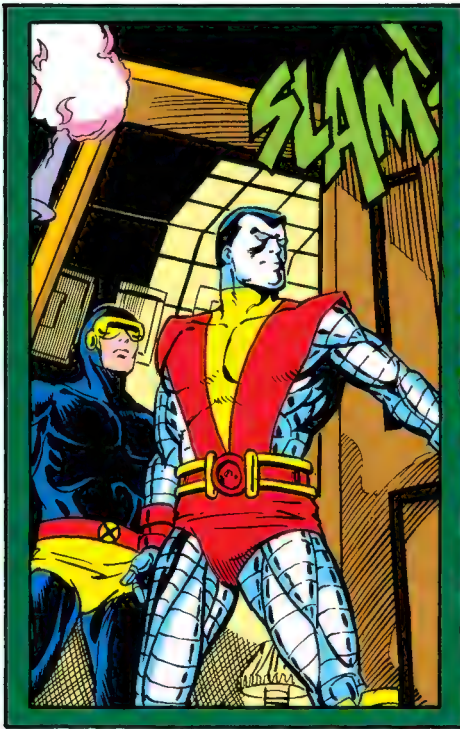


THE X-MEN
AREN'T LONG
ON BRAINS
IN THIS
TIMELINE!



"I TOOK THE
LOTUS
POSITION..."





YOU DON'T WANT ME GOING WITH HIM, LOCKHEED?



BLASTED BEAST TRIED TO FRY US!

CALL OFF YOUR DRAGON, ILLYANA! PROFESSOR XAVIER WILL SEE YOU NOW!

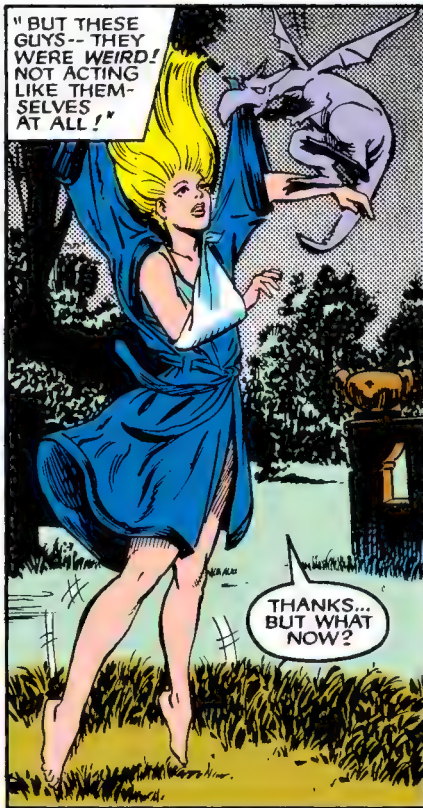


MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT BUT I CAN'T TELEPORT US AWAY NOW OR--

OH!

I GUESS I DON'T HAVE TO TELEPORT!

"THE X-MEN WERE THE 'A-TEAM'-- THE HEROES WE NEW MUTANTS WANTED TO GROW INTO!"



"BUT THESE GUYS-- THEY WERE WEIRD! NOT ACTING LIKE THEMSELVES AT ALL!"

THANKS... BUT WHAT NOW?



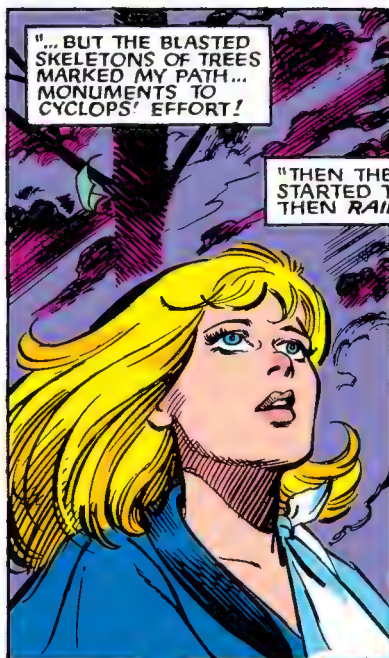
PROFESSOR XAVIER'S ORDERS! THE GIRL IS EVIL, A THREAT TO US ALL! SHE MUST BE DESTROYED!



AND SHE WILL BE!

"MAYBE, HERE, THE X-MEN DIDN'T PRACTICE USING THEIR POWERS, OR MAYBE IT WAS TOO DARK FOR HIM TO SEE..."

"CYCLOPS' OPTIC BLASTS-- SHOT WITH THAT FORCE-- SHOULD HAVE DEMOLISHED ME ON THE SPOT, BUT HIS SHOT WENT WILD!"

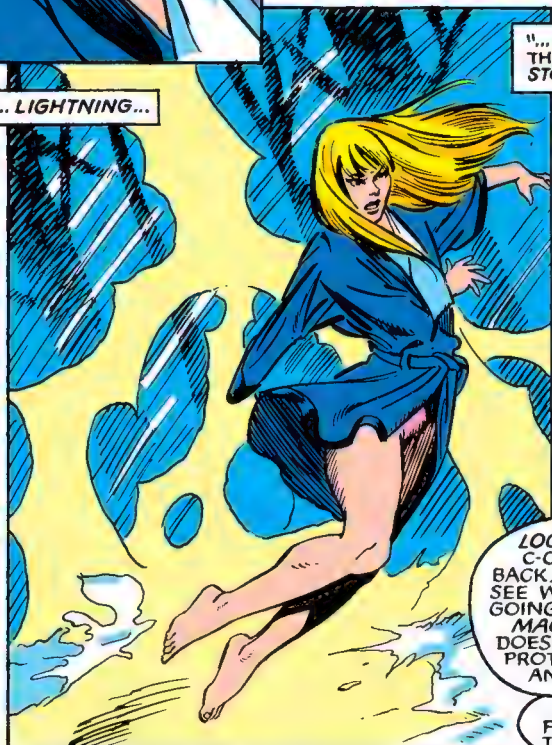


"... BUT THE BLASTED SKELETONS OF TREES MARKED MY PATH... MONUMENTS TO CYCLOPS' EFFORT!"

"THEN THE WIND STARTED TO RISE! THEN RAIN..."



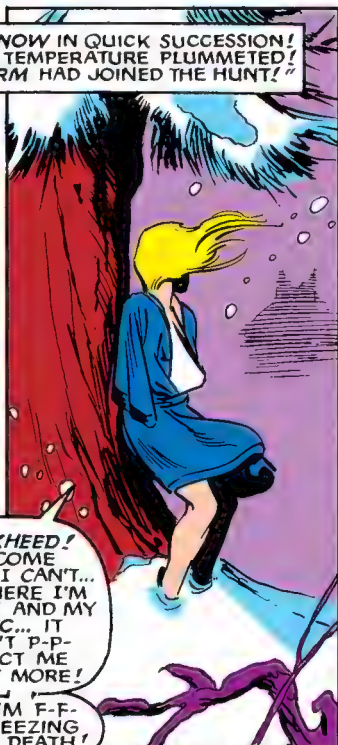
"... LIGHTNING..."

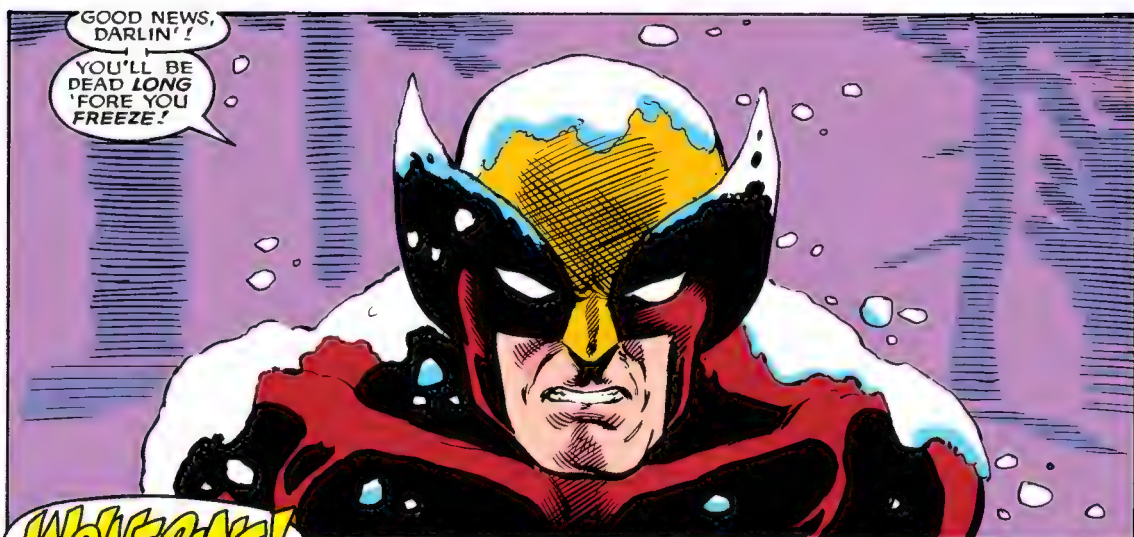


"...SNOW IN QUICK SUCCESSION! THE TEMPERATURE PLUMMETED! STORM HAD JOINED THE HUNT!"

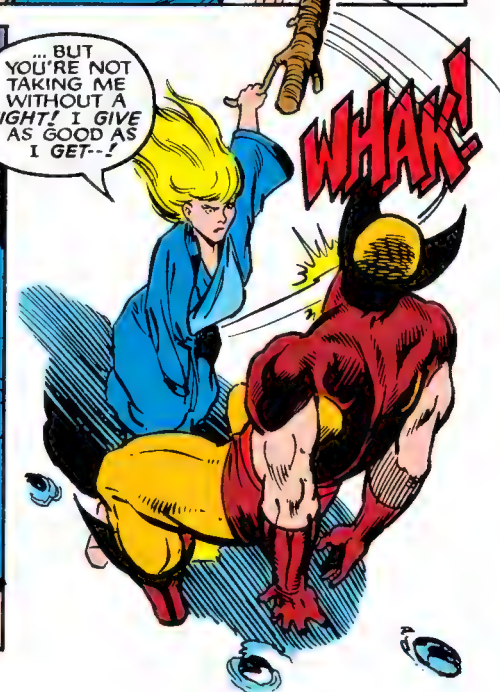
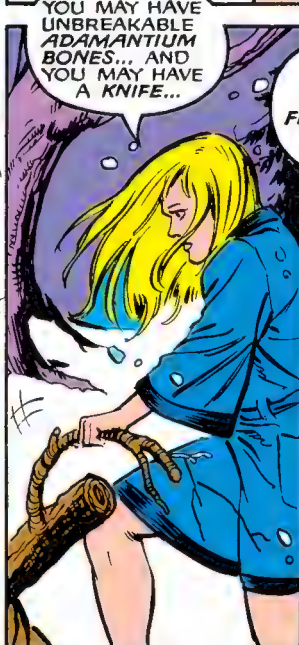
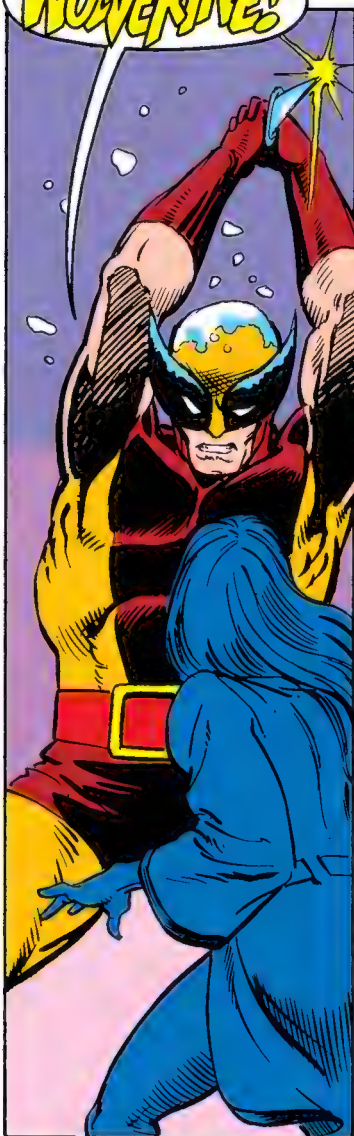
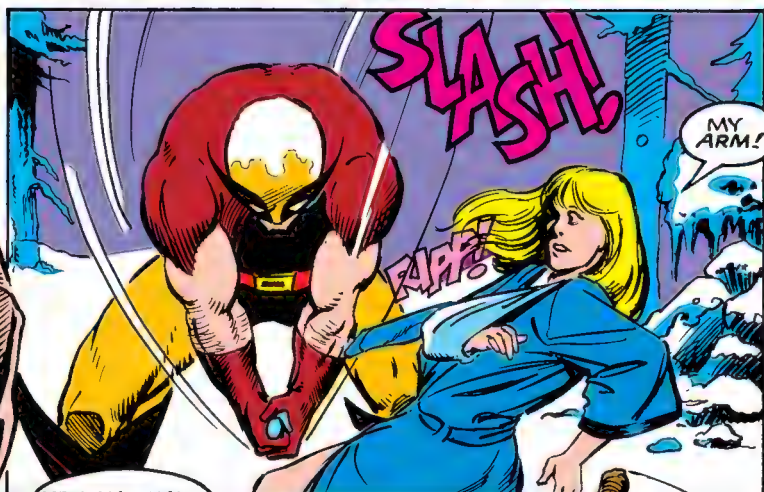
LOCKHEED!
C-C-COME BACK! I CAN'T... SEE WHERE I'M GOING! AND MY MAGIC... IT DOESN'T P-P-PROTECT ME ANY MORE!

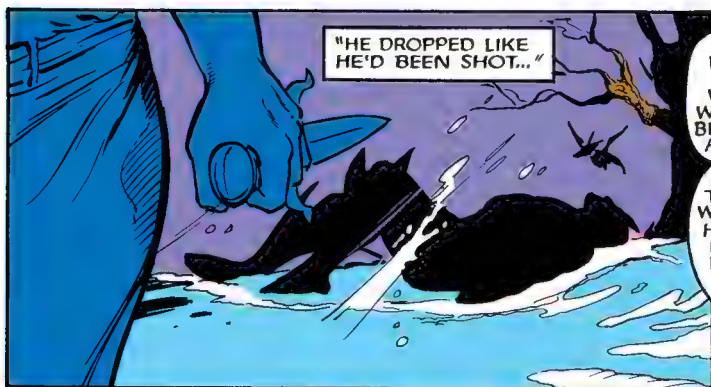
I'M F-F-FREEZING TO DEATH!





WOLVERINE!





"HE DROPPED LIKE HE'D BEEN SHOT..."

LOCKHEED, DID YOU SEE THAT? OUR WOLVERINE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN FAZED BY A STEEL I-BEAM!

AND WHY THE KNIFE? WHY NOT USE HIS CLAWS? HEY... HE DOESN'T HAVE CLAWS!

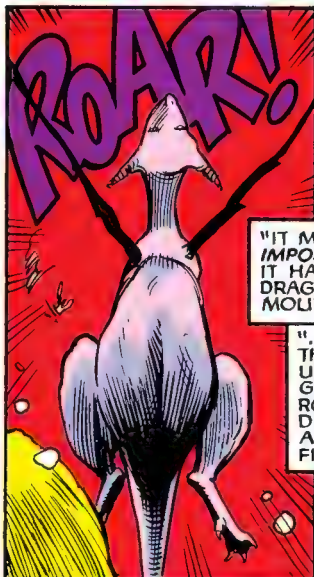


GETTING COLDER! WIND... BLOWING US BACK TOWARD THE MANSION! STORM'S DOING!

CAN'T... GO MUCH FARTHER...

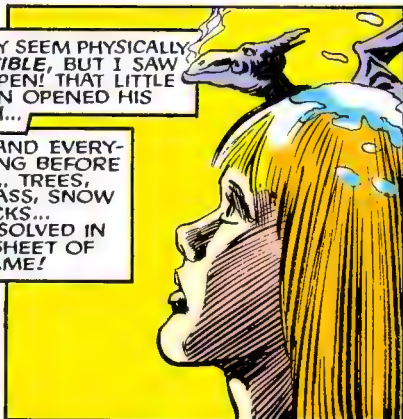
Gleep?

WHAT IS IT, LOCKHEED? WHAT DO YOU SEE?



"IT MAY SEEM PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE, BUT I SAW IT HAPPEN! THAT LITTLE DRAGON OPENED HIS MOUTH..."

"... AND EVERYTHING BEFORE US... TREES, GRASS, SNOW ROCKS... DISSOLVED IN A SHEET OF FLAME!"

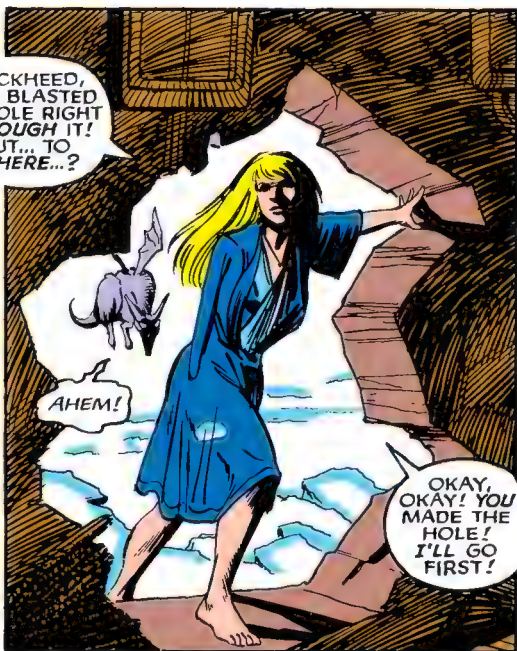


"THEN, HAVING CONSUMED EVERYTHING, THE FLAME STARVED AND DIED, REVEALING..."

A... WALL?

IT STRETCHES FAR AS I CAN SEE! BUT LOCKHEED... THERE'S NO WALL LIKE THIS AT XAVIER'S!

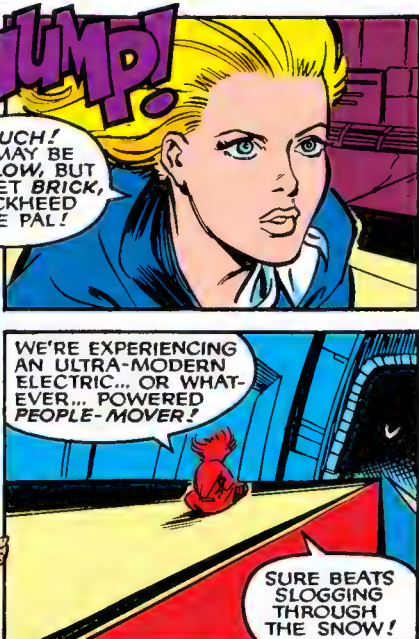
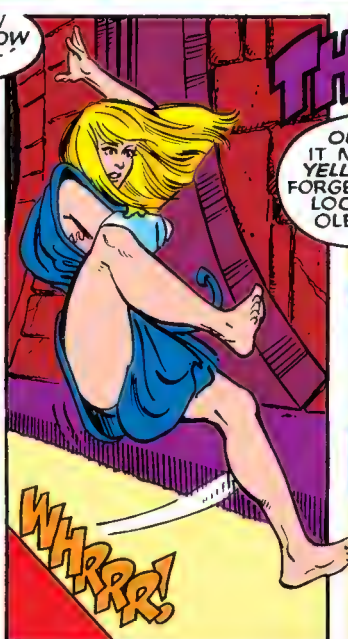
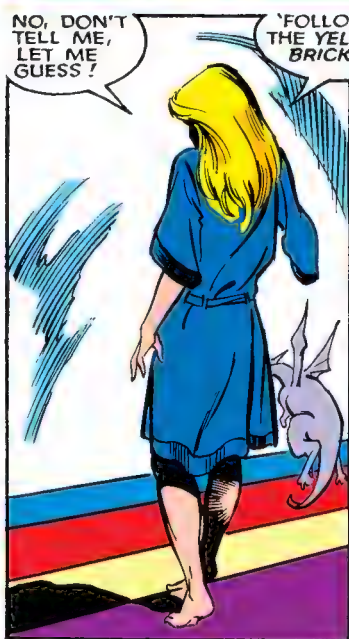
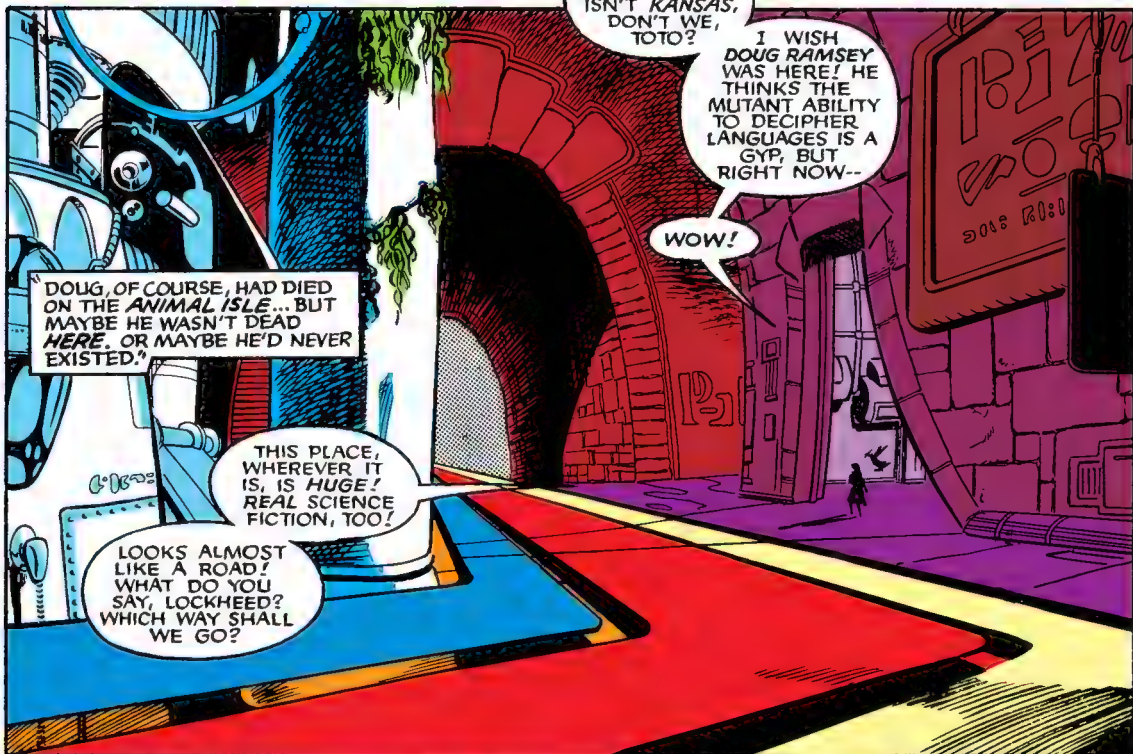
HEY! WARM AIR!



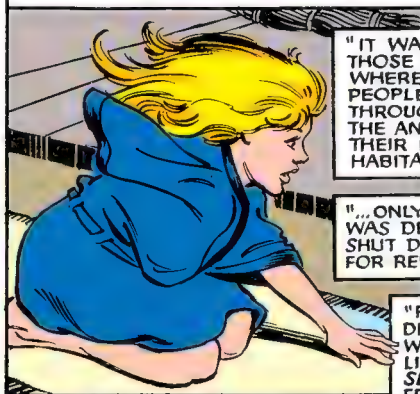
LOCKHEED, YOU BLASTED A HOLE RIGHT THROUGH IT! BUT... TO WHERE...?

AHEM!

OKAY, OKAY! YOU MADE THE HOLE! I'LL GO FIRST!



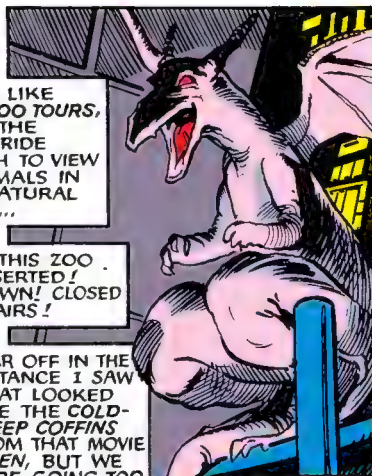
"FOR NEARLY AN HOUR, LOCKHEED AND I SPED NOWHERE FAST."



"IT WAS LIKE THOSE ZOO TOURS, WHERE THE PEOPLE RIDE THROUGH TO VIEW THE ANIMALS IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT..."

"...ONLY THIS ZOO WAS DESERTED! SHUT DOWN! CLOSED FOR REPAIRS!"

"FAR OFF IN THE DISTANCE I SAW WHAT LOOKED LIKE THE COLD-SLEEP COFFINS FROM THAT MOVIE ALIEN, BUT WE WERE GOING TOO FAST TO MAKE SURE."

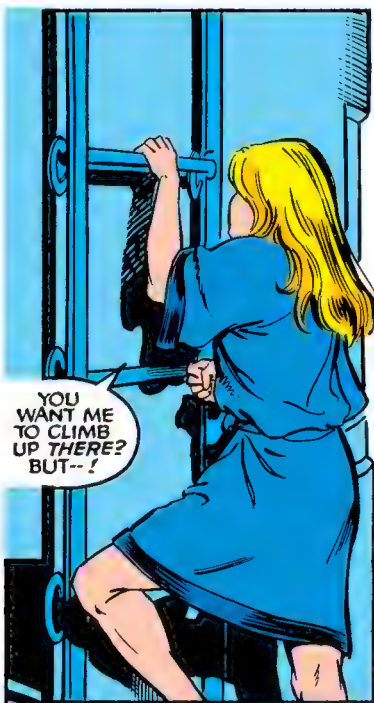


"THE ONLY PEOPLE AWAKE HERE WERE US... AND THOSE FACSIMILE X-MEN!"

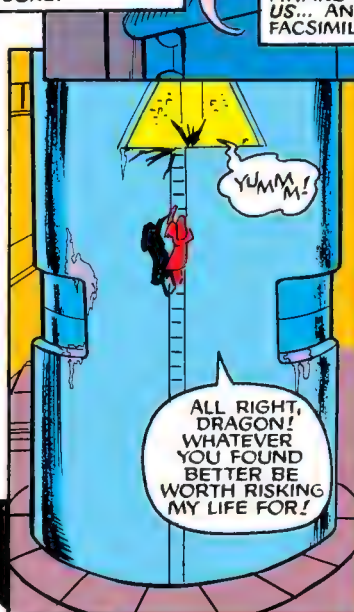


"HEEEERRR!"

"TIRED OF THIS, BOY? ME, TOO! I'M ALSO STARVED! SURELY THIS PLACE HAS A KITCHEN!"

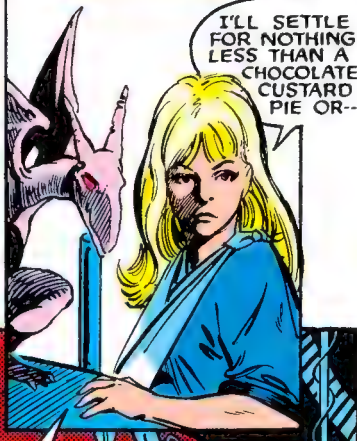


"YOU WANT ME TO CLIMB UP THERE? BUT--!"



"YUMM M!"

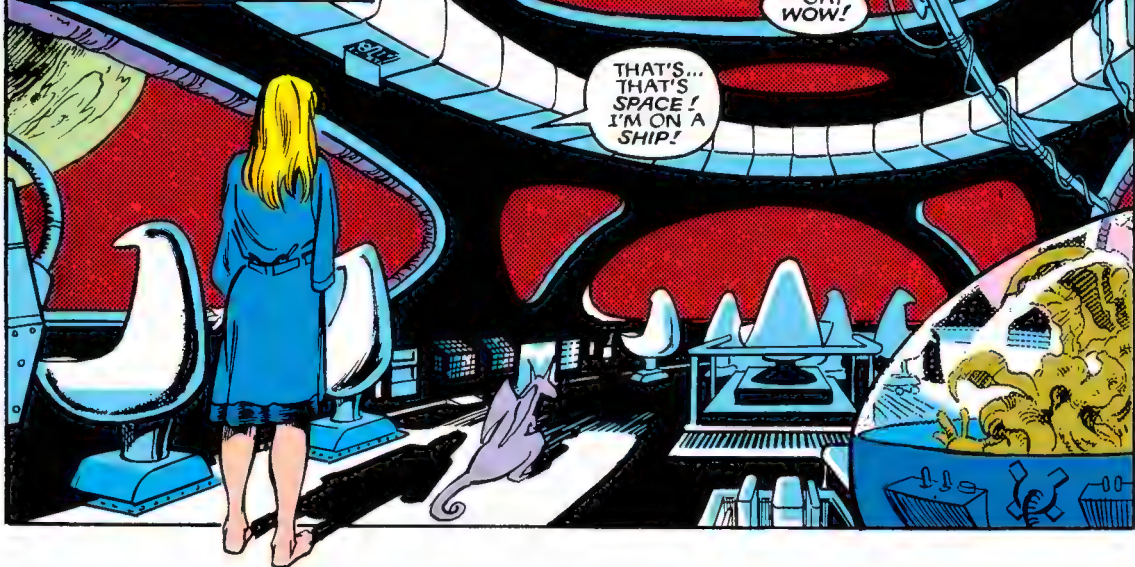
"ALL RIGHT, DRAGON! WHATEVER YOU FOUND BETTER BE WORTH RISKING MY LIFE FOR!"



"I'LL SETTLE FOR NOTHING LESS THAN A CHOCOLATE CUSTARD PIE OR--"

"--OH, WOW!"

"THAT'S... THAT'S SPACE! I'M ON A SHIP!"



AWESOME!
IF THE PART I
CAN'T SEE IS
HALF AS BIG AS
THE PART
I CAN...

...THIS SHIP'S
AS BIG AS A
SMALL CITY!

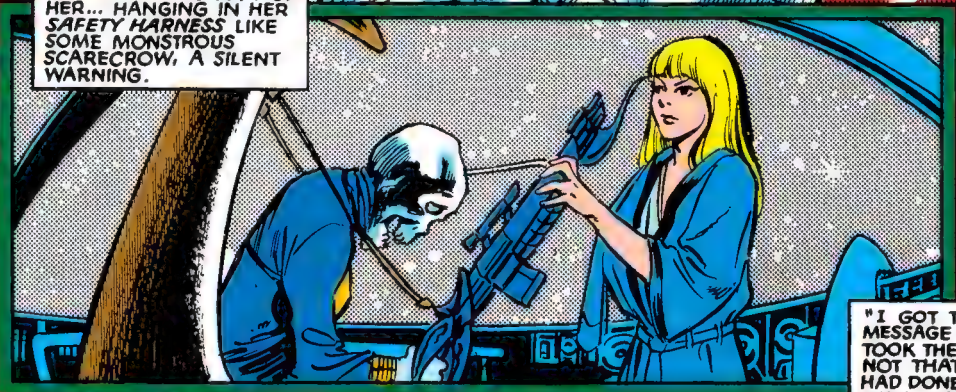
"A *SPACE SHIP!* WHO
KNOWS WHERE MY
FEVERED BRAIN DUG
THAT ONE UP.

"MAYBE IT WAS A HIGH-TECH
HEAVEN SYMBOL. TO MY
MIND, YOU'D BE HARD PRESSED
TO FIND PEOPLE MORE WORTHY
OF HEAVEN THAN THE *X-MEN*."

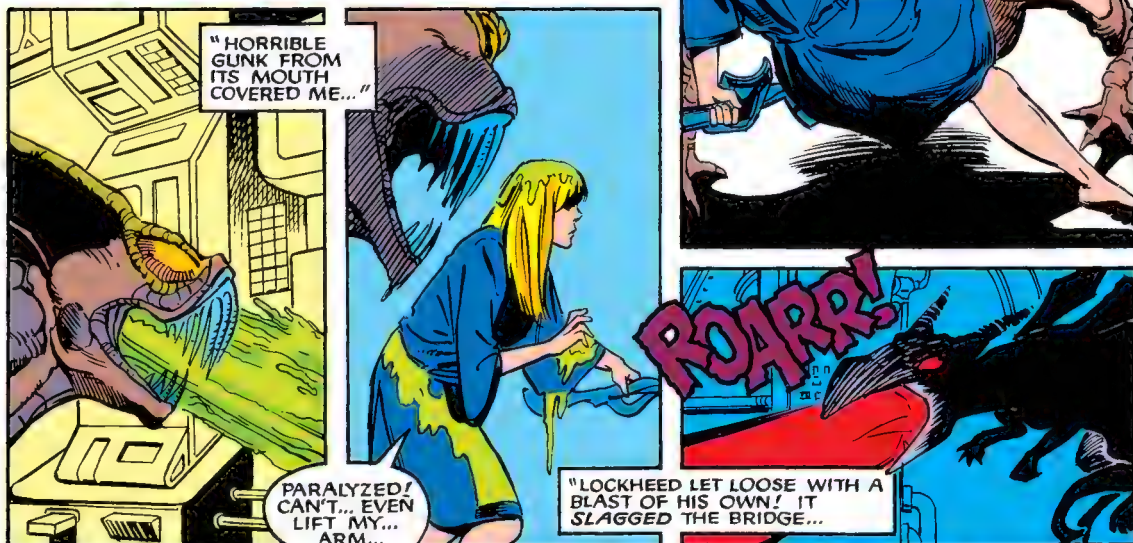
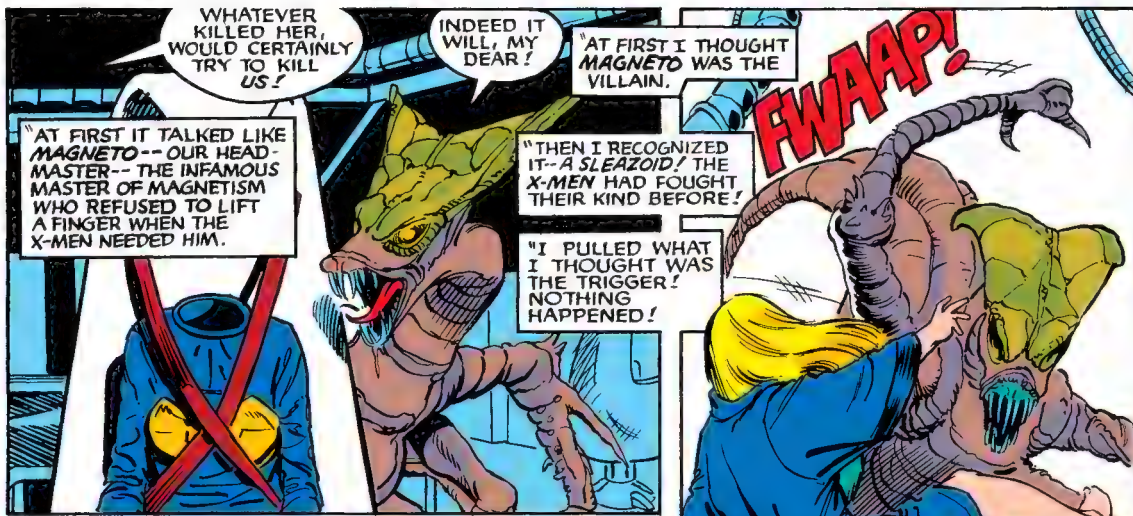
"I CREEPT CLOSER TO THE
OBSERVATION WINDOW...
SPUN A CHAIR ASIDE WHEN
IT BLOCKED MY VIEW..."

"... AND CAME FACE
TO FACE WITH ONE
OF THE ORIGINAL
INHABITANTS!"

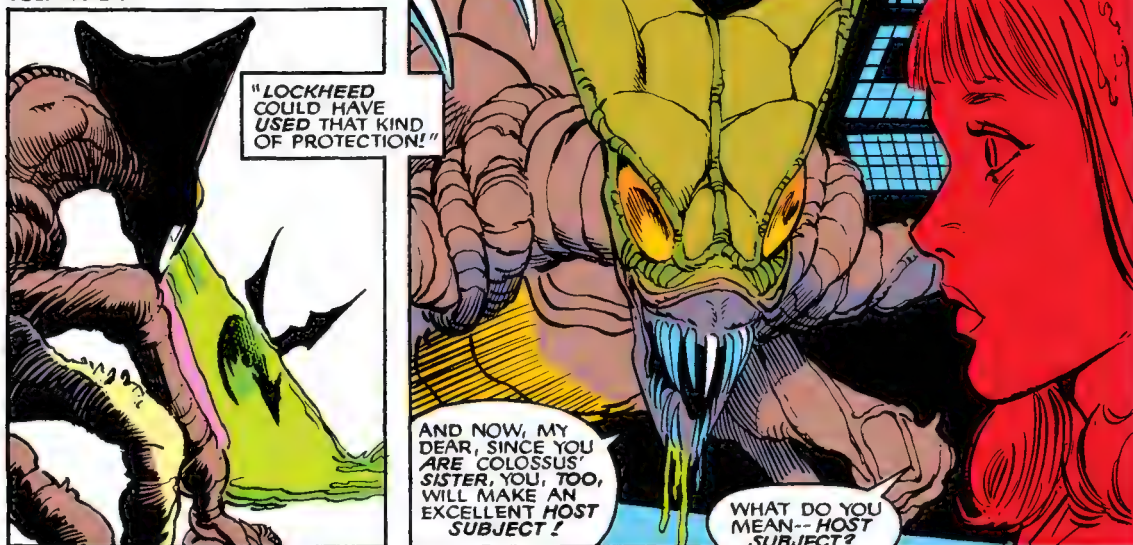
"OR WHAT WAS LEFT OF
HER... HANGING IN HER
SAFETY HARNESS LIKE
SOME MONSTROUS
SCARECROW, A SILENT
WARNING."

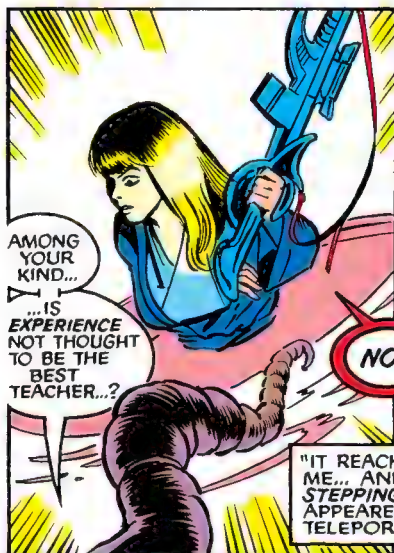


"I GOT THE
MESSAGE AND
TOOK THE GUN!
NOT THAT IT
HAD DONE HER
MUCH GOOD!"



"... BUT SOME KIND OF PERSONAL ENERGY FIELD PROTECTED THE SLEAZOID!"



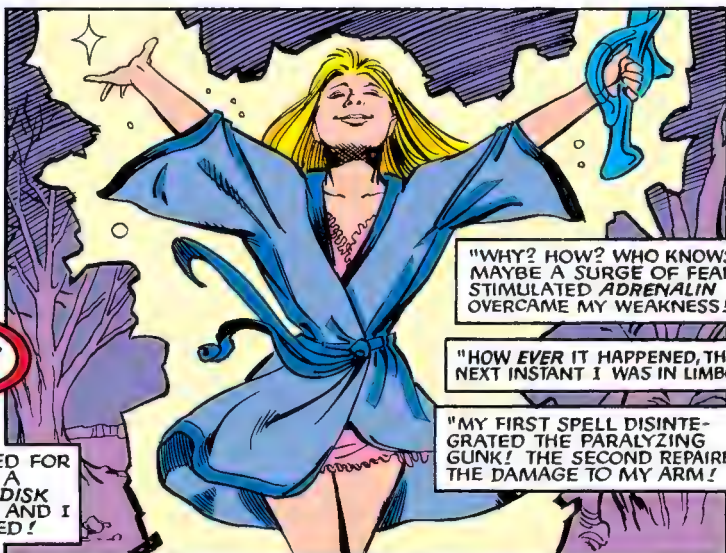


AMONG YOUR KIND...

...IS EXPERIENCE NOT THOUGHT TO BE THE BEST TEACHER...?

NO!

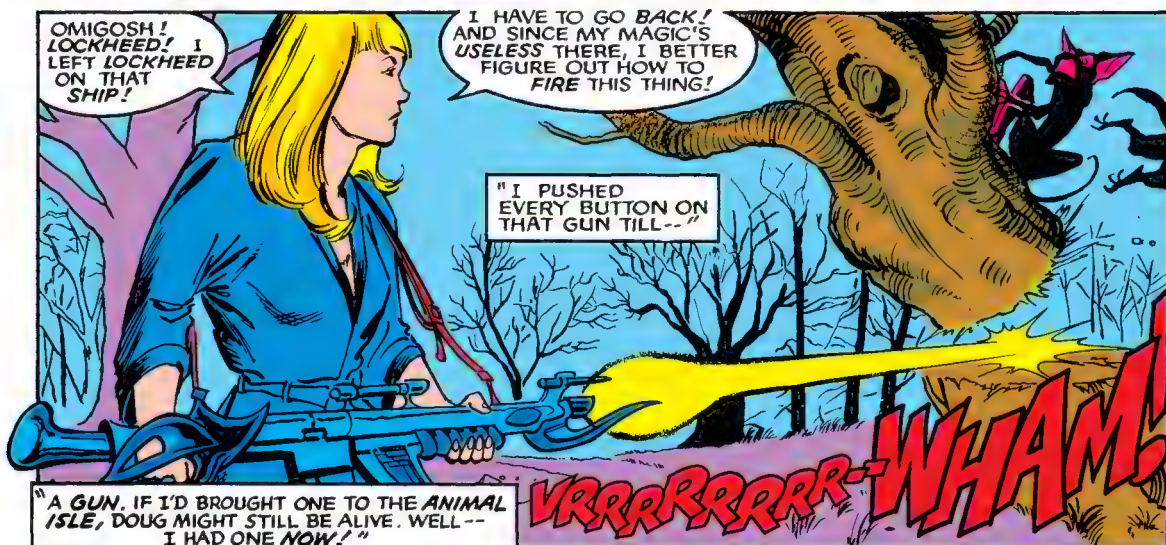
"IT REACHED FOR ME... AND A STEPPING DISK APPEARED AND I TELEPORTED!"



"WHY? HOW? WHO KNOWS! MAYBE A SURGE OF FEAR STIMULATED ADRENALIN OVERCAME MY WEAKNESS!"

"HOW EVER IT HAPPENED, THE NEXT INSTANT I WAS IN LIMB!"

"MY FIRST SPELL DISINTEGRATED THE PARALYZING GUNK! THE SECOND REPAIRED THE DAMAGE TO MY ARM!"



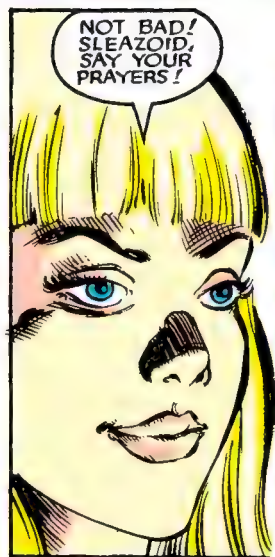
OMIGOSH! LOCKHEED! I LEFT LOCKHEED ON THAT SHIP!

I HAVE TO GO BACK! AND SINCE MY MAGIC'S USELESS THERE, I BETTER FIGURE OUT HOW TO FIRE THIS THING!

"I PUSHED EVERY BUTTON ON THAT GUN TILL--"

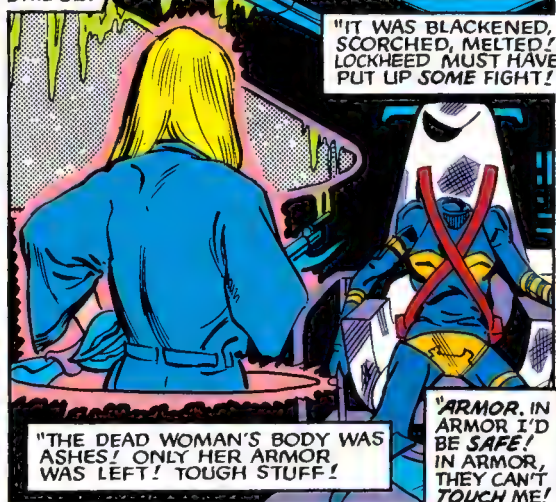
"A GUN. IF I'D BROUGHT ONE TO THE ANIMAL ISLE, DOUG MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE. WELL-- I HAD ONE NOW!"

WHAM!



NOT BAD! SLEAZOID, SAY YOUR PRAYERS!

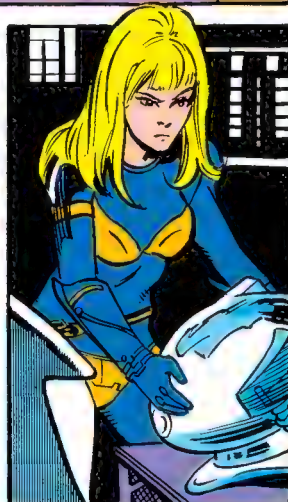
"I TELEPORTED BACK THE WAY I CAME AND LANDED SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STARSHIP'S BRIDGE."



"IT WAS BLACKENED, SCORCHED, MELTED! LOCKHEED MUST HAVE PUT UP SOME FIGHT!"

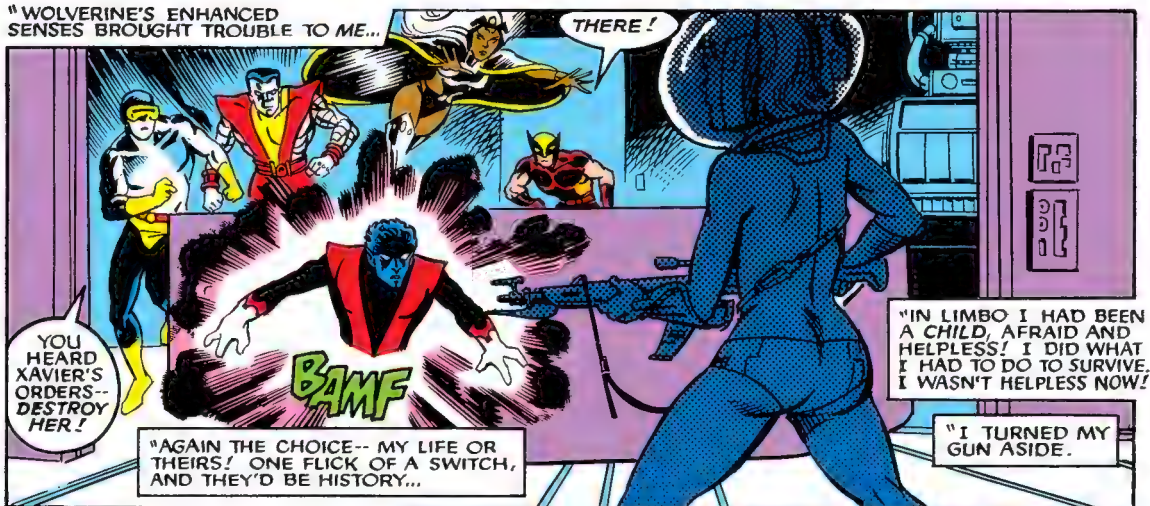
"THE DEAD WOMAN'S BODY WAS ASHES! ONLY HER ARMOR WAS LEFT! TOUGH STUFF!"

"ARMOR. IN ARMOR I'D BE SAFE! IN ARMOR, THEY CAN'T TOUCH ME!"



"I PUT IT ON! I'D NEED ALL THE PROTECTION I COULD GET WHEN I WENT LOOKING FOR TROUBLE!"

"WOLVERINE'S ENHANCED SENSES BROUGHT TROUBLE TO ME..."



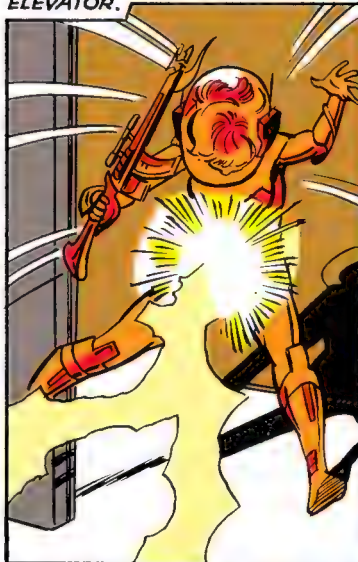
"YOU HEARD XAVIER'S ORDERS-- DESTROY HER!"

"AGAIN THE CHOICE-- MY LIFE OR THEIRS! ONE FLICK OF A SWITCH, AND THEY'D BE HISTORY..."

"IN LIMBO I HAD BEEN A CHILD, AFRAID AND HELPLESS! I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO TO SURVIVE. I WASN'T HELPLESS NOW!"

"I TURNED MY GUN ASIDE."

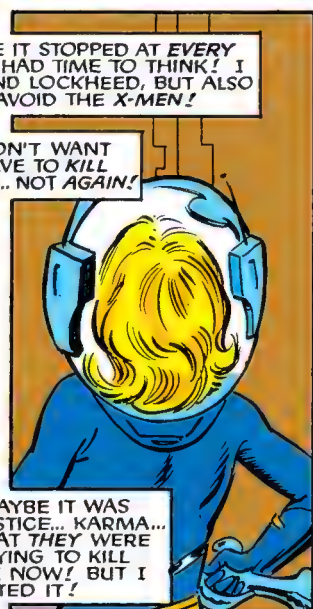
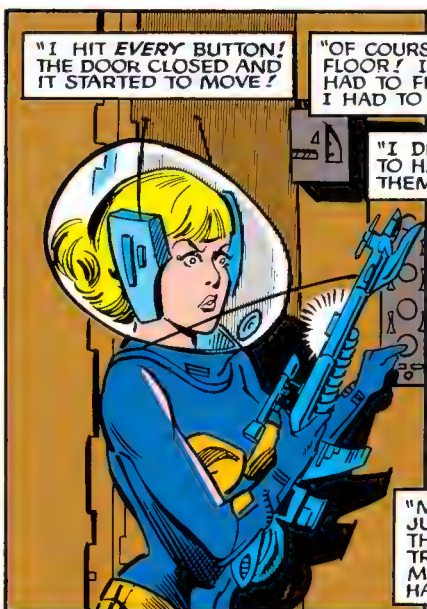
"STORM'S LIGHTNING SLAMMED ME INTO WHAT LOOKED LIKE AN ELEVATOR."



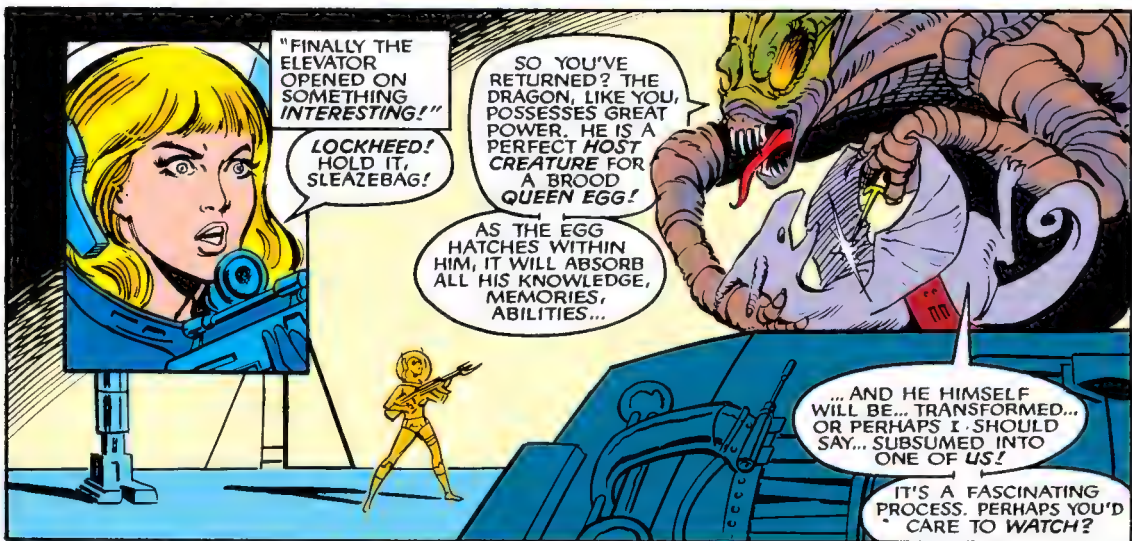
"I HIT EVERY BUTTON! THE DOOR CLOSED AND IT STARTED TO MOVE!"

"OF COURSE IT STOPPED AT EVERY FLOOR! I HAD TIME TO THINK! I HAD TO FIND LOCKHEED, BUT ALSO I HAD TO AVOID THE X-MEN!"

"I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO KILL THEM... NOT AGAIN!"



"MAYBE IT WAS JUSTICE... KARMA... THAT THEY WERE TRYING TO KILL ME NOW! BUT I HATED IT!"



"FINALLY THE ELEVATOR OPENED ON SOMETHING INTERESTING!"

"LOCKHEED! HOLD IT, SLEAZEBAG!"

"SO YOU'VE RETURNED? THE DRAGON, LIKE YOU, POSSESSES GREAT POWER. HE IS A PERFECT HOST CREATURE FOR A BROOD QUEEN EGG!"

"AS THE EGG HATCHES WITHIN HIM, IT WILL ABSORB ALL HIS KNOWLEDGE, MEMORIES, ABILITIES..."

"... AND HE HIMSELF WILL BE... TRANSFORMED... OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY... SUBSUMED INTO ONE OF US!"

"IT'S A FASCINATING PROCESS. PERHAPS YOU'D CARE TO WATCH?"

I'LL PASS! I THOUGHT YOU SLEAZOIDS DIED WHEN YOUR WORLD WAS DESTROYED! *

NOT ALL! I ESCAPED... WITH A CACHE OF QUEEN EGGS AND TISSUE SAMPLES FROM THE X-MEN WHEN THEY WERE OUR PRISONERS.

I FOUND THIS SHIP, SLAUGHTERED ITS CREW, CLONED ADULT X-MEN, ALTERED THEIR MEMORIES AND INJECTED THEM WITH THE EGGS!

YOU SEE, THEY ARE UNDER MY... INFLUENCE! THEY THINK I AM THEIR ADORED MENTOR-- PROFESSOR XAVIER!

WHAT DELICIOUS IRONY THAT THE CREATURES WHO GAVE THE GOOD

*X-MEN #166-- Ann.

"AND THEN I KNEW WHO THE MONSTER REMINDED ME OF!"

THEY MUST
DEFEAT...

"AND THEN I KNEW
WHO THE MONSTER
REMINDED ME OF!"

"FORGE --
WHO USED MY
BROTHER...
ALL THE X-MEN...
TO PLUG A
BREACH IN
REALITY THAT
HE HAD MADE."

...SHOULD
BECOME THE
TEMPLATES FOR
AN EVEN DEADLIER
STRAIN!

NIGHTCRAWLER,
WOLVERINE,
CYCLOPS, STORM
AND ARIEL... WHOSE
UNSUSPECTING AND
QUITE HELPLESS
CLONES, I...

AH! YOU TRACKED
HER HERE, MY X-MEN...
EXCELLENT! NOW--
DESTROY HER!

WE HEAR
YOU,
'PROFESSOR
XAVIER--'

THEN, THEY
SACRIFICED
THEMSELVES...
WILLINGLY.
NOW..."

**...SHOULD
BECOME THE
TEMPLATES FOR
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**NIGHTCRAWLER,
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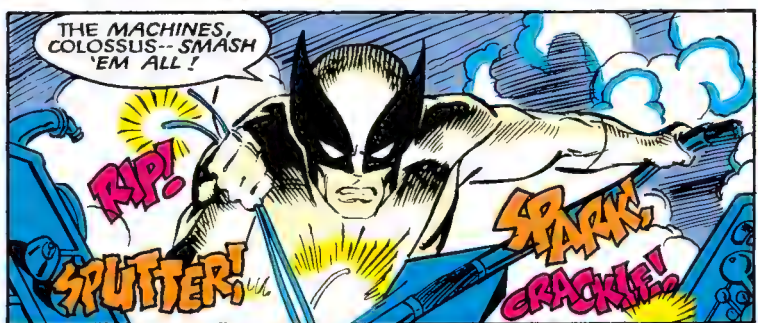
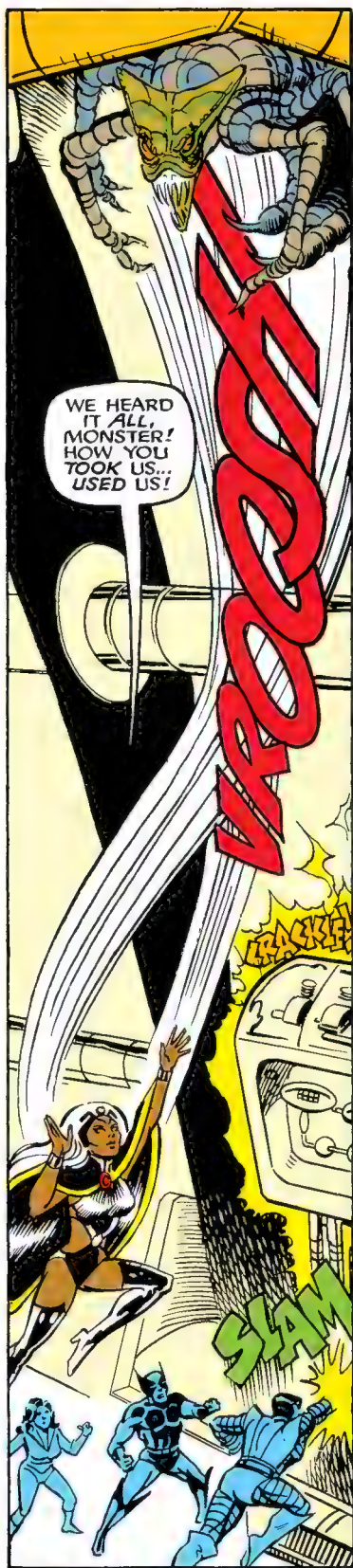
Ah! YOU TRACKED
 HER HERE, MY X-MEN!
 EXCELLENT! NOW--
 DESTROY HER!

WE HEAR
YOU,
'PROFESSOR
XAVIER--'

**THEN, THEY
SACRIFICED
THEMSELVES...
WILLINGLY.
NOW..."**

-- BUT WE
CAN NO
LONGER
OBEY!

"...THEY FOUGHT
LIKE DEMONS!"





"THE DRAGON DID WHAT CAME NATURALLY, AND SHOWED ME WHAT I HAD TO DO."

SERVES THE SUCKER RIGHT!

WE HEARD... EVERYTHING! HE GREW US! USED US!

WE WERE... HYPNOTIZED. HE MADE US BELIEVE HE WAS OUR TEACHER... OUR FRIEND!

HE TRIED TO MAKE US KILL YOU, AN INNOCENT CHILD!

"NOT ALL THAT INNOCENT, BROTHER MINE, BUT THIS DIDN'T SEEM THE TIME FOR TRUE CONFESSIONS!"

"FOR A WHILE WE ALL STARED OUT AT THE STARS. SO BRIGHT, SO FULL OF PROMISE, AND YET..."

WE GOTTA FACE FACTS! WE'RE LAB SPECIMENS AN' MONSTER FODDER! EACH OF US HAS ONE O' THE SUCKERS GROWIN' IN HIM!

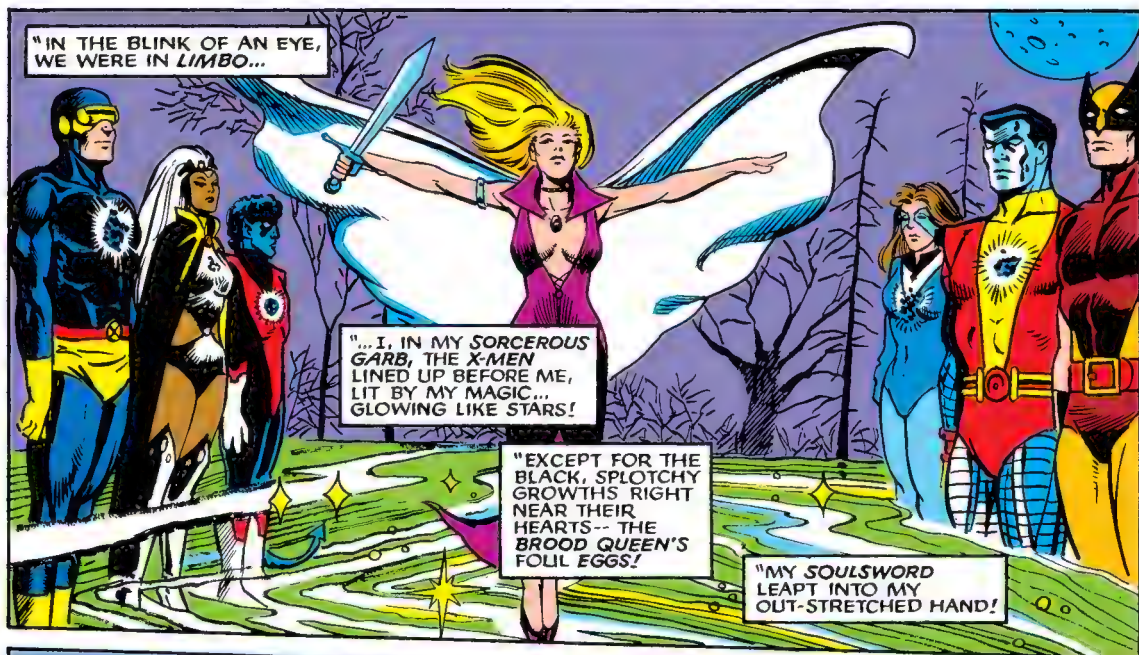
BETTER KILL US, ILLYANA! NOW, WHILE YOU CAN! 'FORE MORE PEOPLE DIE!

NO!

YOU'RE CLONES, YEAH, BUT WHAT YOU ASK... THAT PROVES YOU'RE HUMAN... THE BEST KIND OF HUMAN!

YOU WERE GIVEN BODIES LIKE MY FRIENDS... AND I THINK YOU'RE LIKE THEM IN OTHER WAYS!

IN ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE, I SAW THE X-MEN DIE! THE DYING STOPS HERE!



"IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE,
WE WERE IN LIMBO..."

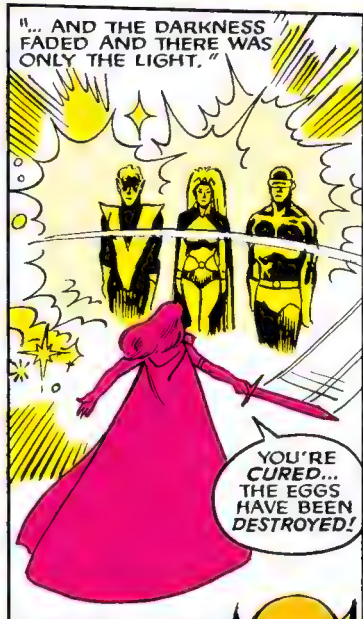
"...I, IN MY SORCEROUS
GARB, THE X-MEN
LINED UP BEFORE ME,
LIT BY MY MAGIC...
GLOWING LIKE STARS!"

"EXCEPT FOR THE
BLACK, SPLOTCHY
GROWTHS RIGHT
NEAR THEIR
HEARTS-- THE
BROOD QUEEN'S
FOUL EGGS!"

"MY SOULSWORD
LEAPT INTO MY
OUT-STRETCHED HAND!"

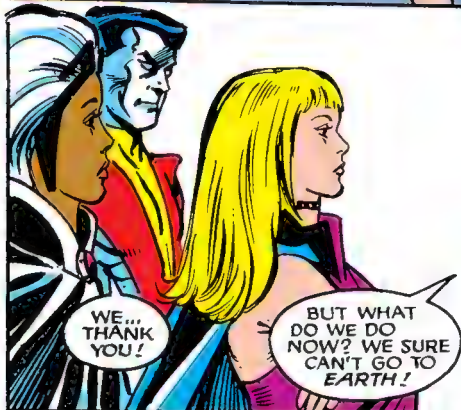


"I SWUNG IT WITH
ALL MY MIGHT..."



"... AND THE DARKNESS
FADED AND THERE WAS
ONLY THE LIGHT."

"YOU'RE
CURED...
THE EGGS
HAVE BEEN
DESTROYED!"

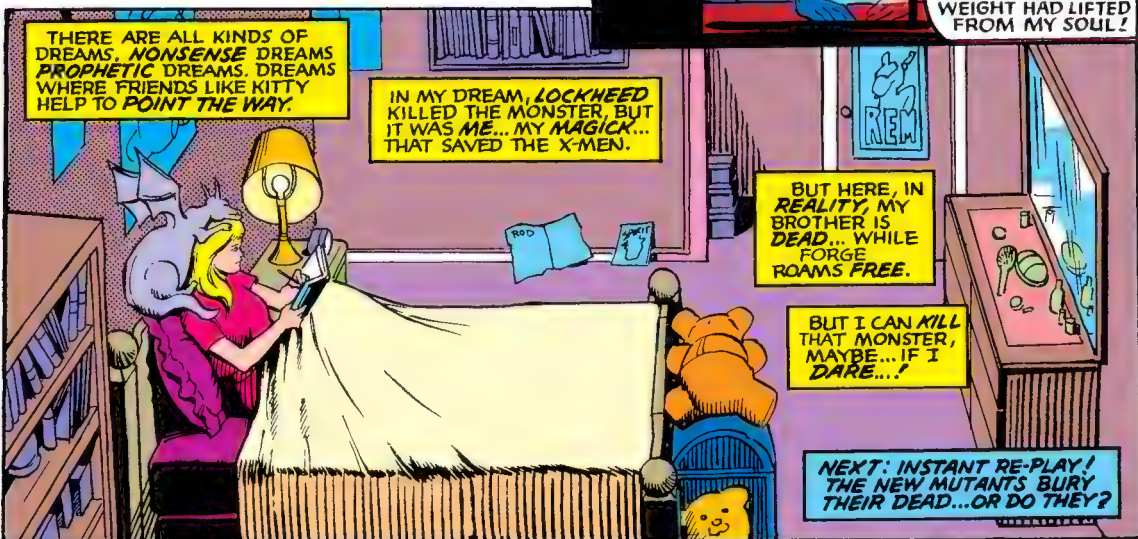
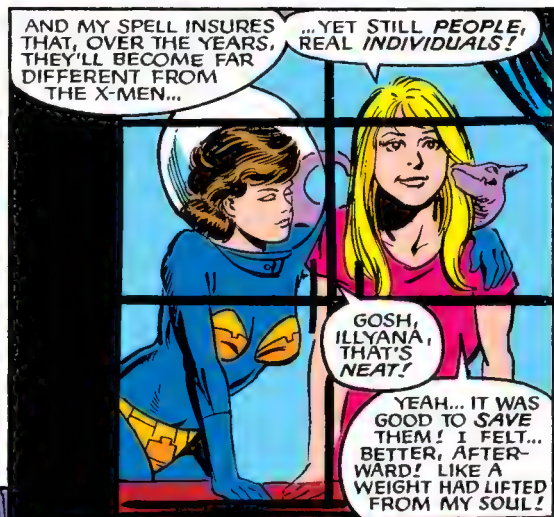
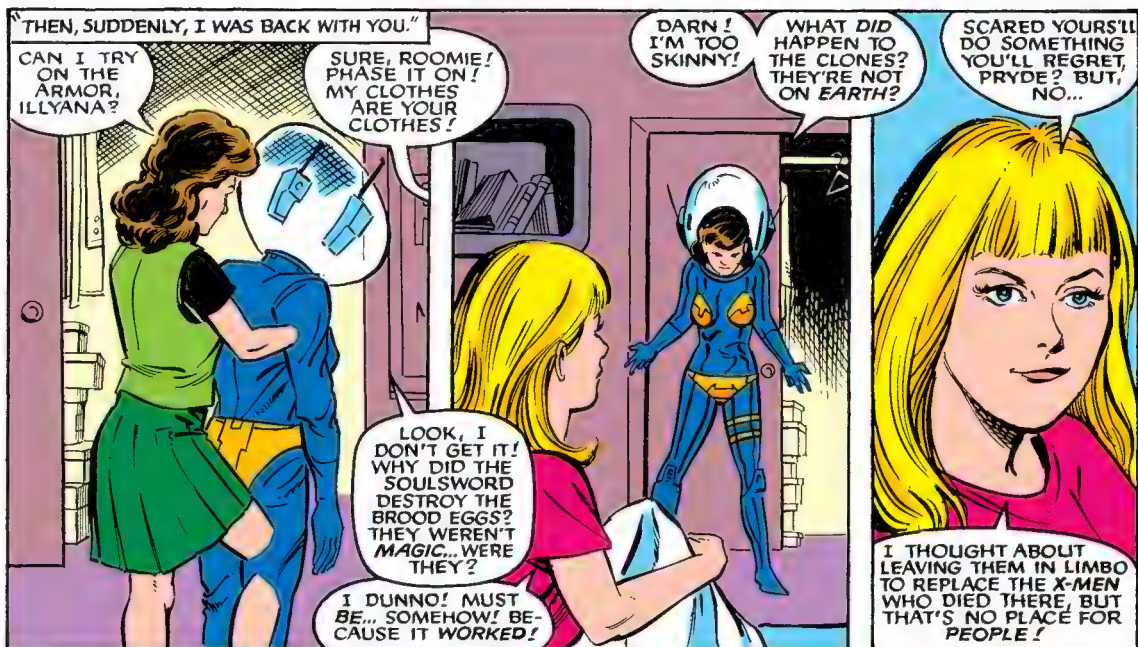


"WE...
THANK
YOU!"

"BUT WHAT
DO WE DO
NOW? WE SURE
CAN'T GO TO
EARTH!"



"JA! THE MEMORIES
WE HAVE OF OUR LIVES
THERE... THEY ARE FALSE.
THEY DON'T BELONG TO US!"



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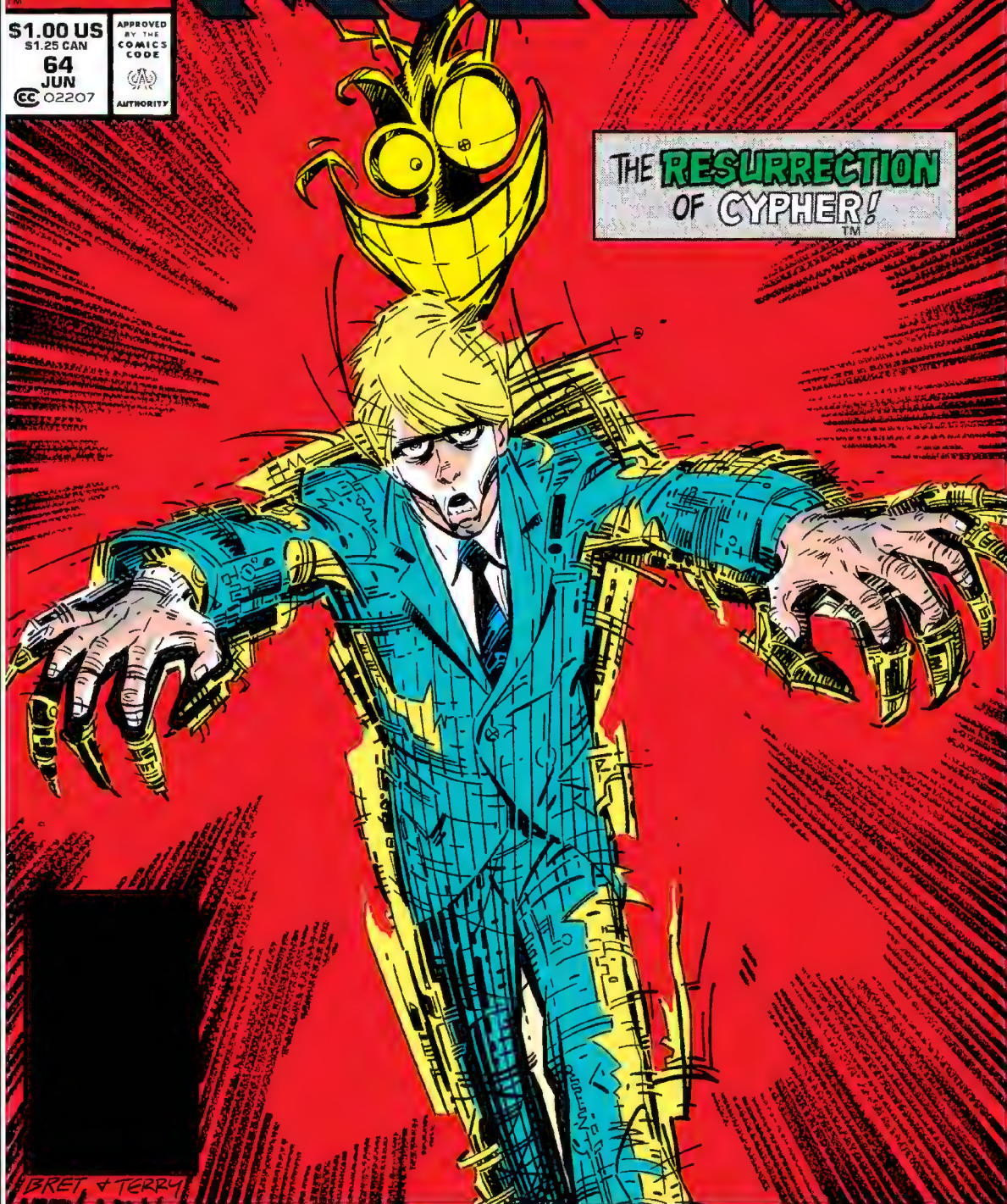
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BY THE
COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY

THE NEW MUTANTS®

THE **RESURRECTION**
OF CYPHER!
TM



THE TEENAGE STUDENTS AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS WERE BORN WITH AN X-FACTOR IN THEIR GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT GAVE THEM EXTRAORDINARY POWERS.

THEY HONE THESE POWERS IN THE DANGER ROOM, A PRACTICE AREA OF ALIEN DESIGN, WHICH IS EQUIPPED TO PROJECT ANY SCENARIO PROGRAMMED INTO IT.

ANY BATTLE... REAL OR IMAGINARY, CAN BE FOUGHT... AND FOUGHT... AND FOUGHT AGAIN...

INSTANT REPLAY!

BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA!



RAHNE! HE'S GOT A GUN!

CREATED BY
CHRIS CLAREMONT
& BOB MCLEOD

LOUISE SIMONSON
WRITER

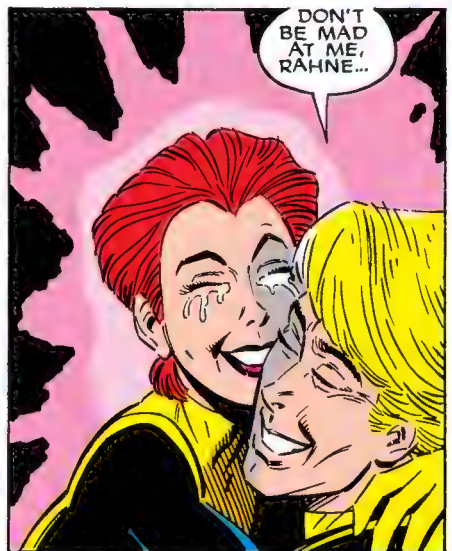
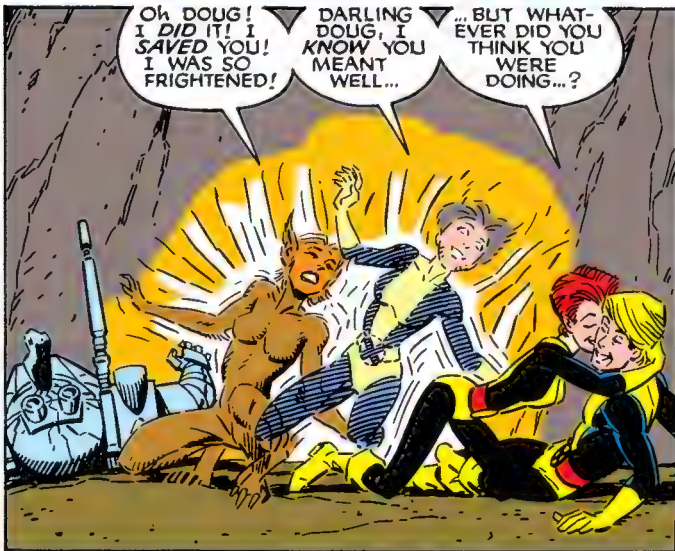
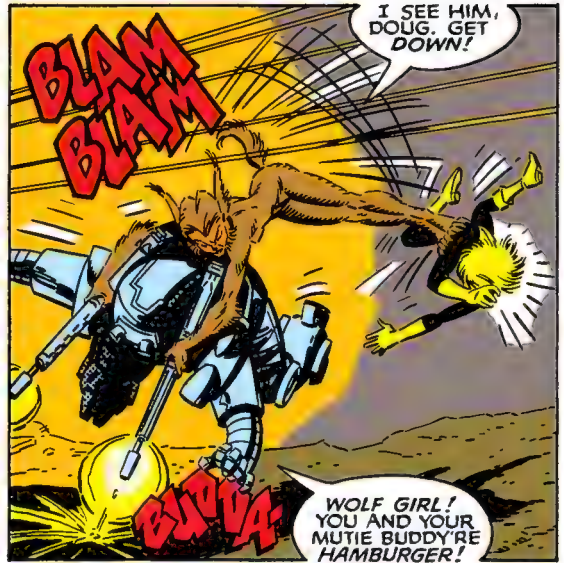
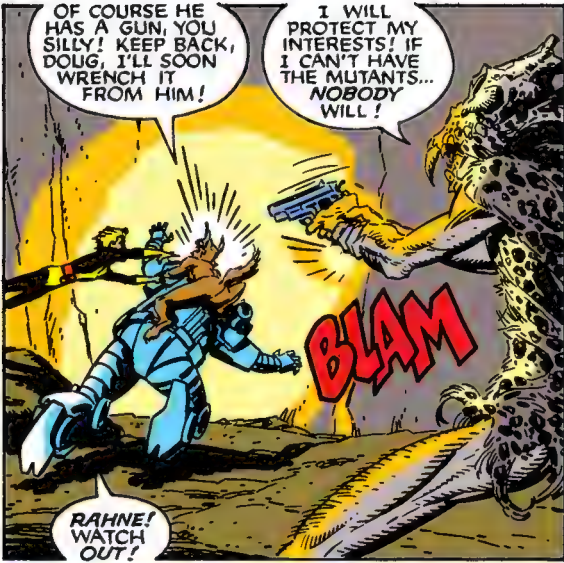
BRET BLEVINS
PENCILER

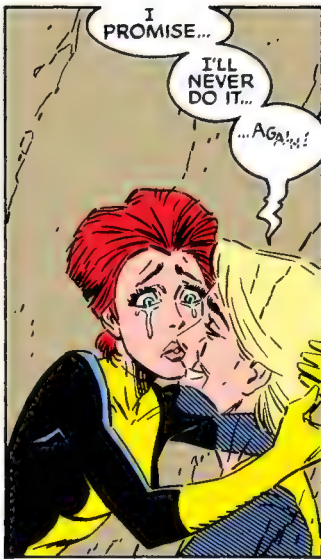
TERRY AUSTIN
INKER

TOM ORZECOWSKI, LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF





I PROMISE...

I'LL NEVER DO IT...

...AGA!?!?



DOUG!
NO!
COME
BACK!



I SAVED
YOU...
YOU'RE
ALIVE...
COME
BACK!

HOW LONG
HAVE YOU
BEEN DOWN HERE
IN THE DANGER
ROOM, RAHNE?



HOW LONG
HAVE YOU BEEN
FIGHTING
ILLUSIONS...
TO SAVE AN
ILLUSION?

BOBBY!
WHO TOLD
YOU TO
COME
HERE?

IT'S NOT YOUR
BUSINESS.



PUT THE
ENVIRONMENT
BACK!

NO WAY! YOU'RE
NOT SUPPOSED TO
BE HERE ALONE.
IT'S DANGEROUS! YOU
COULD BE HURT...
OR EVEN KILLED!



LOOK, RAHNE,
I'M SORRY...
BUT IT'S TWO
IN THE
MORNING.



C'MON UP
TO BED,
RAHNE. EARLY
TOMORROW,
WE GOTTA
GO VIEW
DOUG'S
BODY.

BUT...
DON'T YOU
SEE--? THERE
SHOULDN'T BE
A BODY!



I SHOULD
HAVE SEEN THE
ANI-MATOR
WITH HIS GUN!
I SHOULD
HAVE MOVED
FASTER!

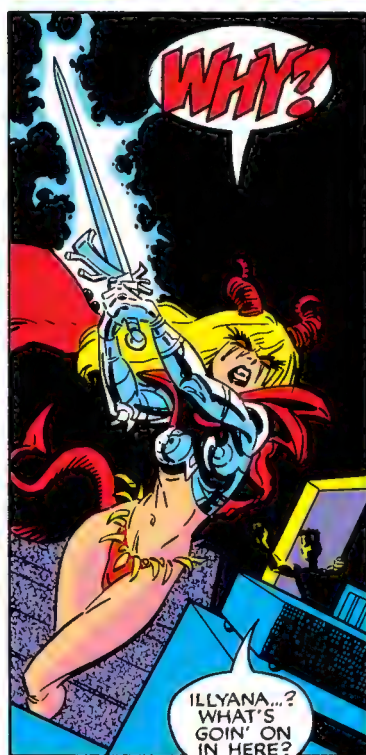
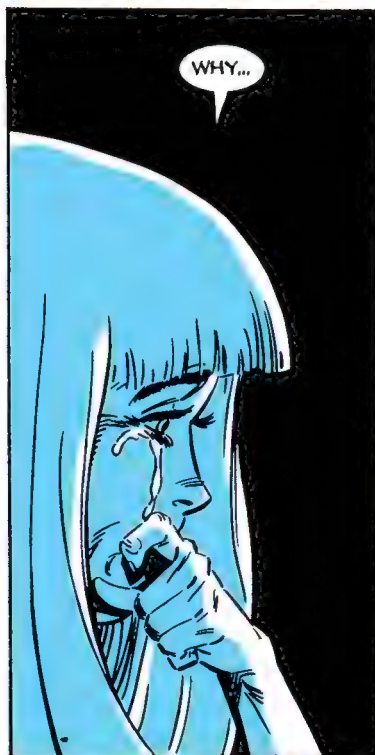
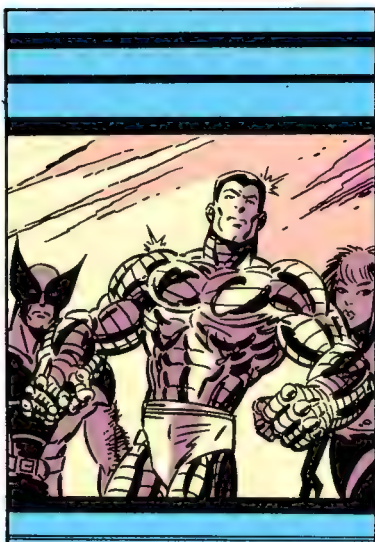
OR
SLOWER.

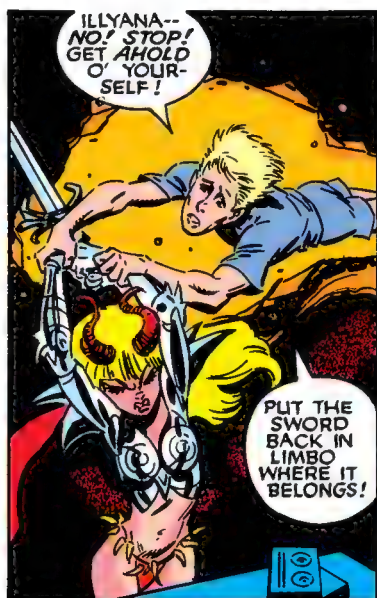
I'VE FOUND
SEVENTEEN WAYS
I COULD HAVE
SAVED DOUG
ALREADY!



HOW COULD
I HAVE MISSED
THEM. HOW
COULD I HAVE
LET HIM
DIE?

WHILE UPSTAIRS IN THE REC ROOM...





ILLYANA--
NO! STOP!
GET AHEAD
O' YOUR-
SELF!

PUT THE
SWORD
BACK IN
LIMBO
WHERE IT
BELONGS!



YOU'RE A...
A GIRL,
ILLYANA! NOT
SOME SORT'A
HORNED
DEMON!

I...
I CAN'T!



YA MEAN--
WON'T!

A LOT YOU KNOW
ABOUT IT, SAM
GUTHRIE! I'LL BE
STUCK LIKE THIS...
AS THE
DARKCHILDE
FOREVER...

...AND IT'LL
SERVE ME
RIGHT!



THE TV NEWS SHOWS
AND SPECIALS KEEP
PLAYING THE SCENES
WHERE THE X-MEN
DIE OVER AND
OVER.

I TAPED
THEM ALL--
I MUST HAVE
THE WHOLE
FIGHT NOW.

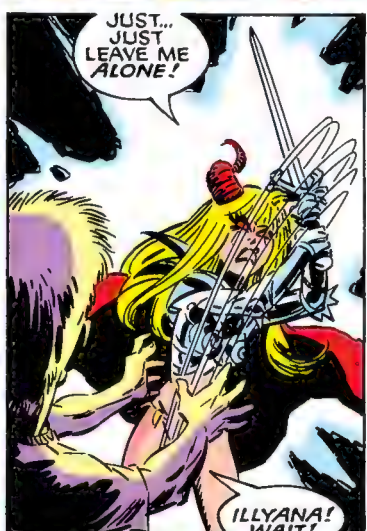
THAT STUPID CAMERA-
MAN WAS THERE...
AND SCOTT'S STUPID
WIFE WAS THERE....



... BUT FOR ALL
MY VAUNTED
SORCEROUS
POWER, FOR
ALL THE FACT
THAT I CAN
TELEPORT...

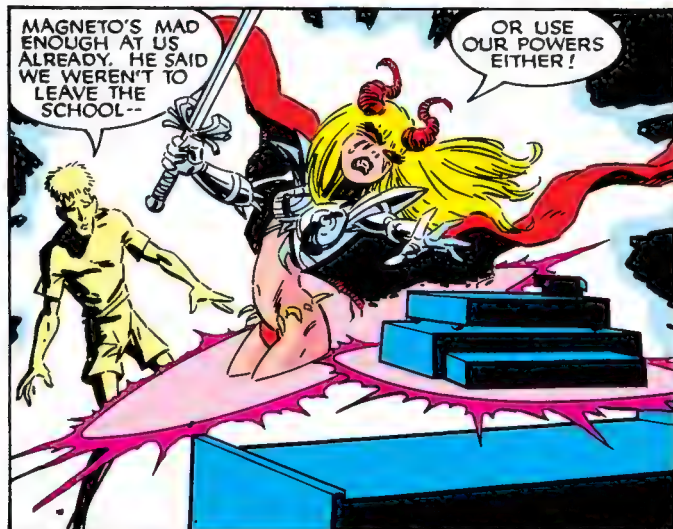
... I COULDN'T
GET THROUGH THE
MAGIC SCREEN
BLOCKING DALLAS...
I COULDN'T
HELP!

SO NOW
I WATCH
AND WATCH...!



JUST...
JUST
LEAVE ME
ALONE!

ILLYANA!
WAIT!



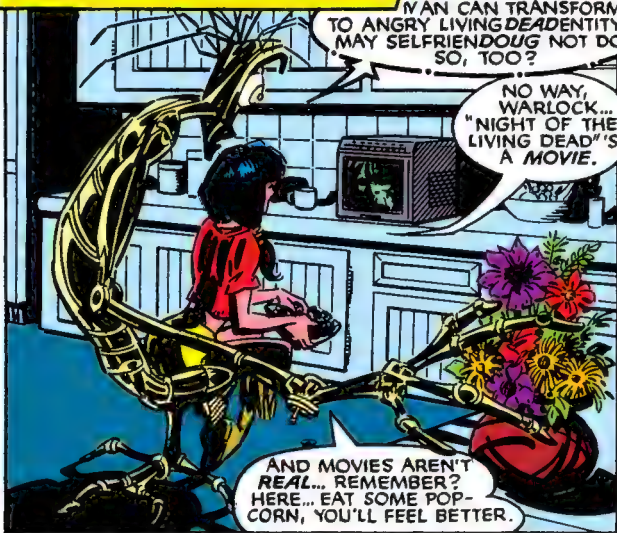
MAGNETO'S MAD
ENOUGH AT US
ALREADY. HE SAID
WE WEREN'T TO
LEAVE THE
SCHOOL--

OR USE
OUR POWERS
EITHER!



TOUGH!

WHILE DOWNSTAIRS IN THE KITCHEN...



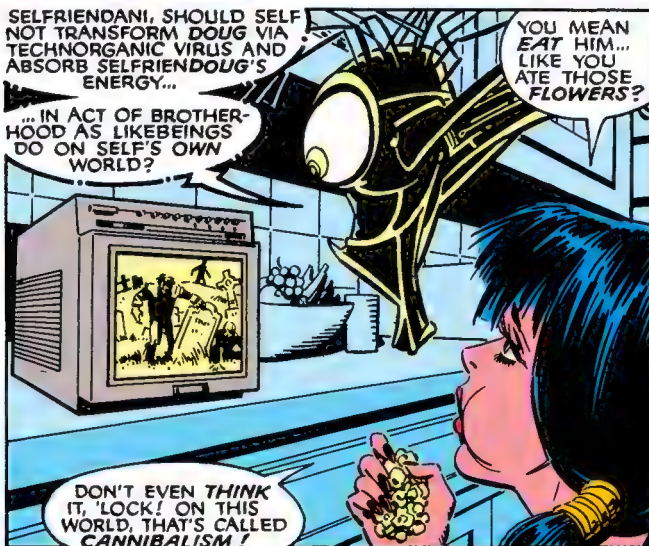
SELFRIENDANI, IF TV
VAN CAN TRANSFORM
TO ANGRY LIVING DEADENTITY,
MAY SELFRIENDOUG NOT DO
SO, TOO?

NO WAY,
WARLOCK...
"NIGHT OF THE
LIVING DEAD"'S
A MOVIE.

AND MOVIES AREN'T
REAL... REMEMBER?
HERE... EAT SOME POP-
CORN, YOU'LL FEEL BETTER.



SELF DOES, INDEED, FEEL
WEAK. SELF WILL TRANSFORM
FLOWERS TO REPLENISH SELF'S
LIFENERGY AND--



SELFRIENDANI, SHOULD SELF
NOT TRANSFORM DOUG VIA
TECHNORGANIC VIRUS AND
ABSORB SELFRIENDOUG'S
ENERGY...

...IN ACT OF BROTHER-
HOOD AS LIKEBEINGS
DO ON SELF'S OWN
WORLD?

YOU MEAN
EAT HIM...
LIKE YOU
ATE THOSE
FLOWERS?

DON'T EVEN THINK
IT, 'LOCK! ON THIS
WORLD, THAT'S CALLED
CANNIBALISM!



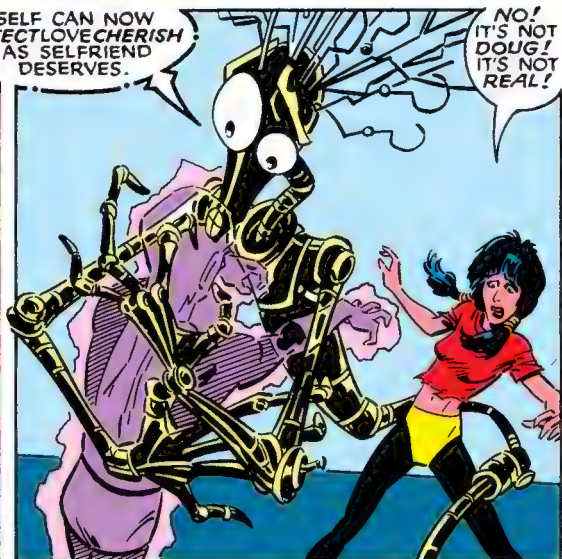
IT'S A BAD THING
TO DO AND--

--NO!

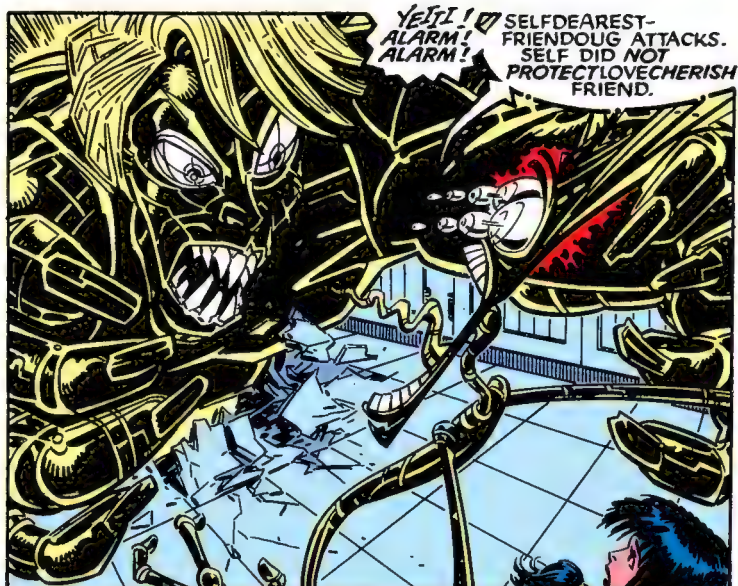


SELFRIENDOUG!
YOU CAME
BACK!

SELF CAN NOW
PROTECT LOVECHERISH
YOU AS SELFRIEND
DESERVES.



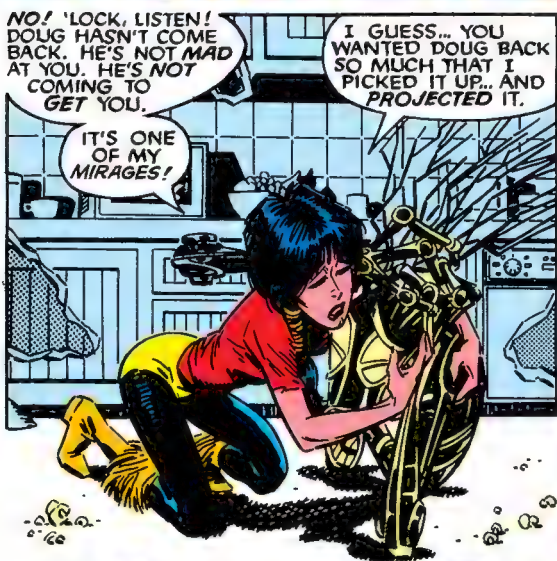
NO!
IT'S NOT
DOUG!
IT'S NOT
REAL!



YEII!!
ALARM!
ALARM!
SELFDEAREST-
FRIENDDOUG ATTACKS.
SELF DID NOT
PROTECTLOVECHERISH
FRIEND.



FRIEND WILL
TRANSFORM
SELF TO WALKING-
DEADIDENTITY--



NO! 'LOCK, LISTEN!
DOUG HASN'T COME
BACK. HE'S NOT MAD
AT YOU. HE'S NOT
COMING TO
GET YOU.

IT'S ONE
OF MY
MIRAGES!

I GUESS... YOU
WANTED DOUG BACK
SO MUCH THAT I
PICKED IT UP... AND
PROJECTED IT.

ONLY WHAT YOU WANTED
GOT ALL MIXED UP WITH
OUR TRYING TO DROWN
OUR SORROWS IN TV...



...AND IT
BECAME
OUR
GREATEST
FEAR.



I DIDN'T
MEAN TO,
'LOCK, I
SWEAR, I
HAVEN'T
LOST
CONTROL
LIKE THAT
IN AGES.

I GUESS DOUG'S DEATH IS
GETTING TO... ALL OF US.

BUT...
THE WALKING
DEAD THING'S
NOTHING
TO WORRY
ABOUT.

ON THIS WORLD, IT'S
ASHES TO ASHES AND
DUST TO DUST AND
THAT'S THE END OF IT.

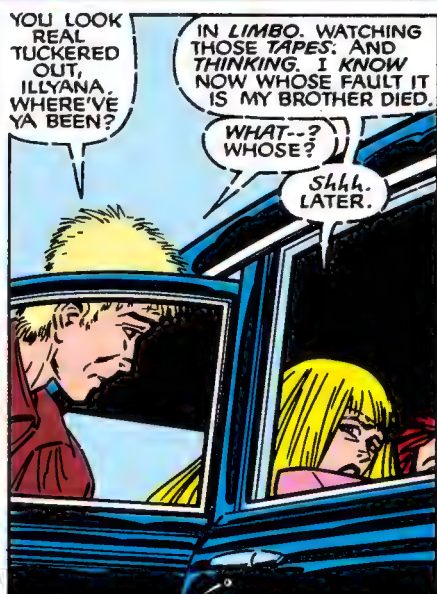
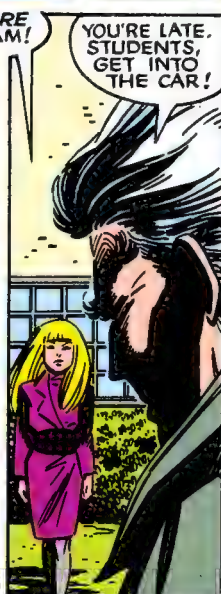
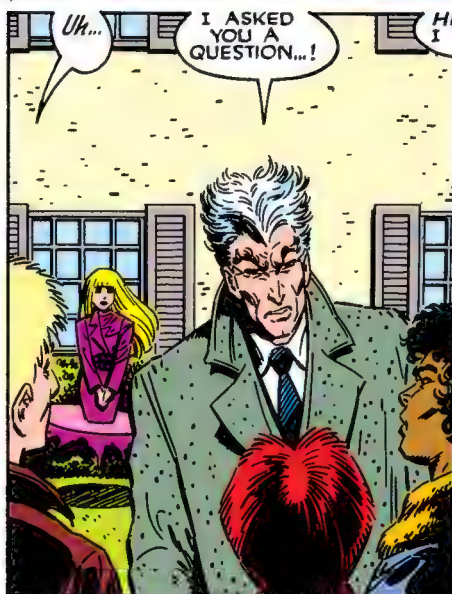
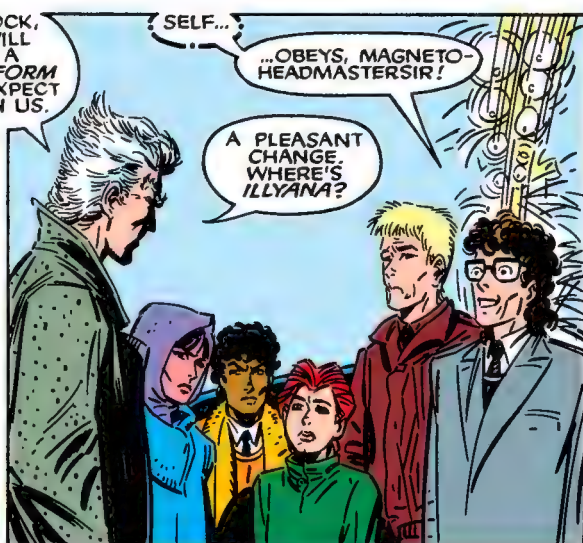
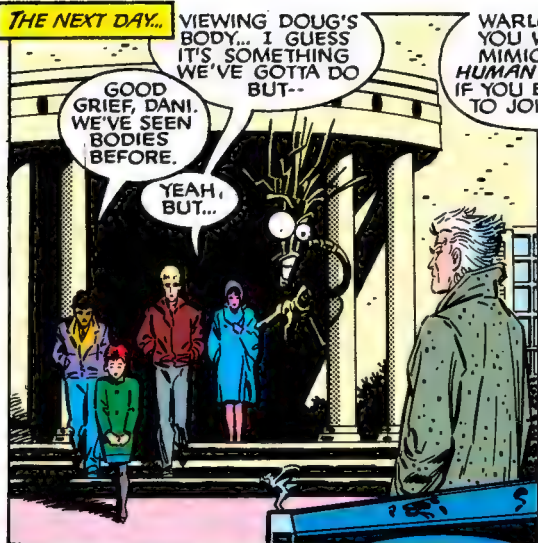
DOUG COULDN'T
COME BACK IF
HE WANTED TO.
WHICH HE
WON'T.



THE ONLY PLACE
A MAGIC ZAP
BRINGS PEOPLE
BACK TO LIFE
IS IN HORROR
MOVIES.

ZAP...?

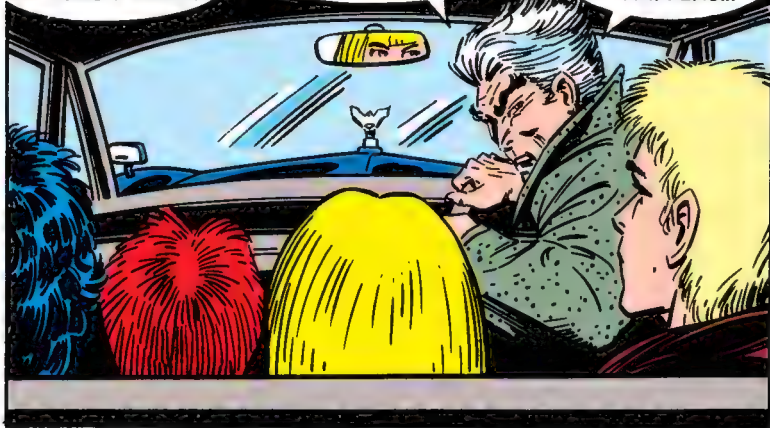
THE NEXT DAY...



I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I WAS FORCED TO **LIE** TO DOUG'S PARENTS ABOUT THE MANNER OF DOUG'S DEATH.

THEY... BELIEVE THAT WE WERE ON A CAMPING TRIP AND THAT DOUG WANDERED OFF INTO THE WOODS ALONE.

WE HEARD A SHOT AND RUSHED BACK TO FIND DOUG'S BODY. IT'S HUNTING SEASON... IT HAPPENS...



THE BULLET ENTERED DOUG'S SIDE AND PASSED ON THROUGH.

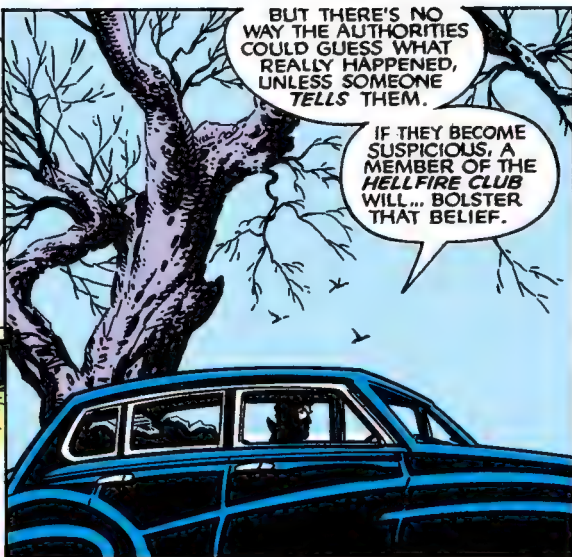
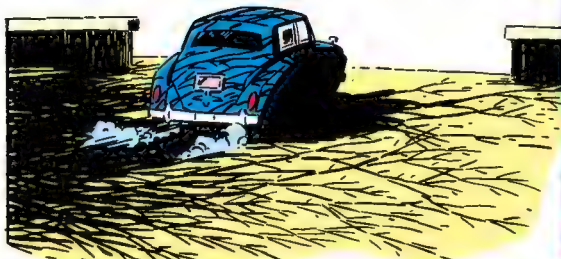
AND DOUG'S PARENTS HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT DOUG'S POWERS... OR ABOUT THE REAL PURPOSE OF THIS SCHOOL...

...OR THAT YOU COULD INSTANTLY BE HALF WAY 'ROUND THE WORLD WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.

THERE'LL BE AN INVESTIGATION, OF COURSE... THERE ALWAYS IS IN SHOOTING CASES... AND YOU'LL BE QUESTIONED.

BUT THERE'S NO WAY THE AUTHORITIES COULD GUESS WHAT REALLY HAPPENED, UNLESS SOMEONE TELLS THEM.

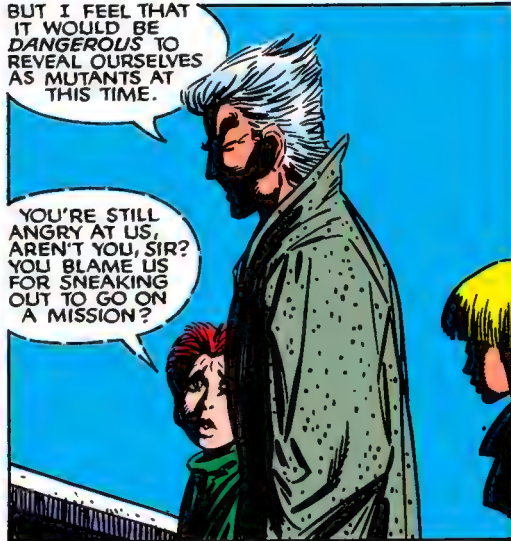
IF THEY BECOME SUSPICIOUS, A MEMBER OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB WILL... BOLSTER THAT BELIEF.



IT'S WRONG. HIS PARENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THEIR SON... ABOUT THE WAY HE DIED.

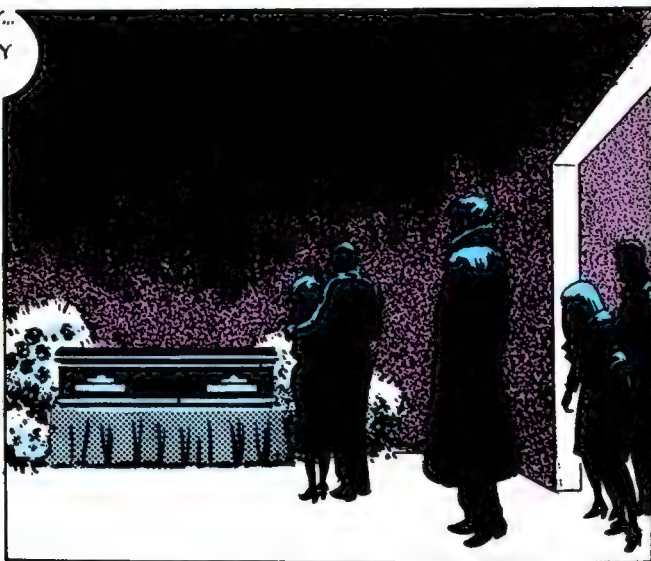
BUT I FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO REVEAL OURSELVES AS MUTANTS AT THIS TIME.

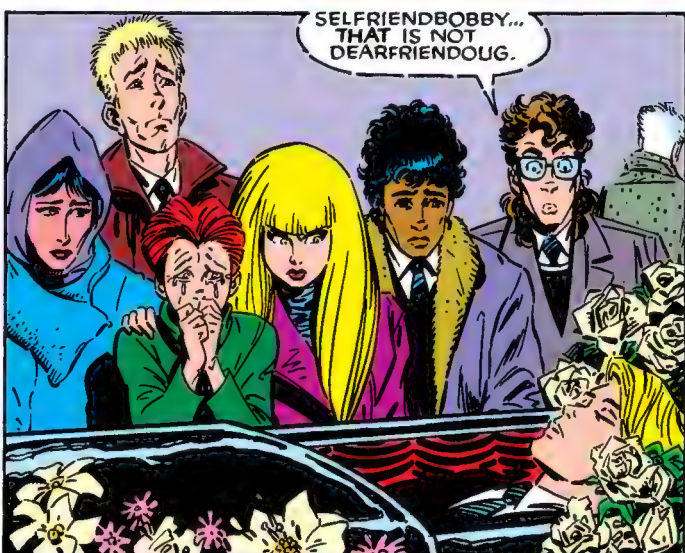
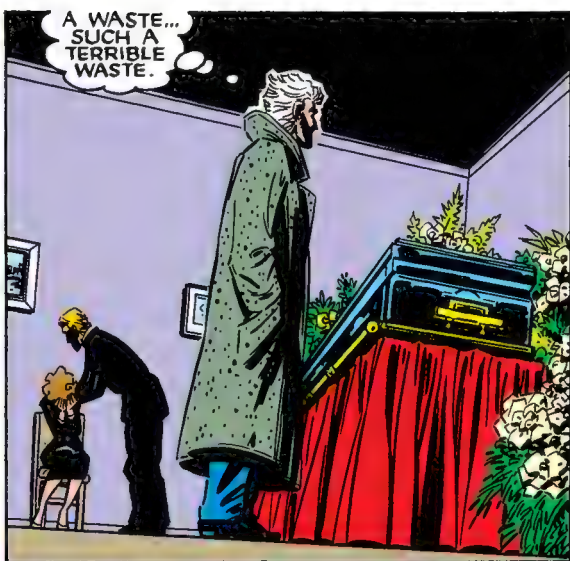
YOU'RE STILL ANGRY AT US, AREN'T YOU, SIR? YOU BLAME US FOR SNEAKING OUT TO GO ON A MISSION?



YOU THINK IT'S OUR FAULT DOUG DIED.

MR. AND MRS. RAMSEY... WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS HOW SORRY I AM... ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED...

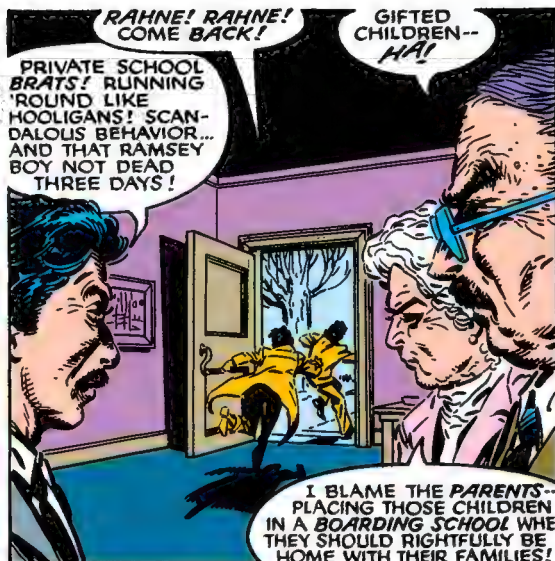






RAHNE!

DON'T WORRY, SIR, YOU STAY RIGHT HERE. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HER.

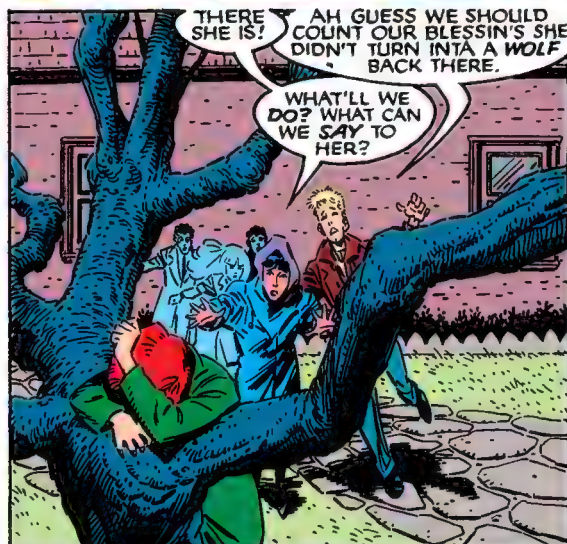


RAHNE! RAHNE! COME BACK!

GIFTED CHILDREN-- HA!

PRIVATE SCHOOL BRATS! RUNNING 'ROUND LIKE HOOLIGANS! SCANDALOUS BEHAVIOR... AND THAT RAMSEY BOY NOT DEAD THREE DAYS!

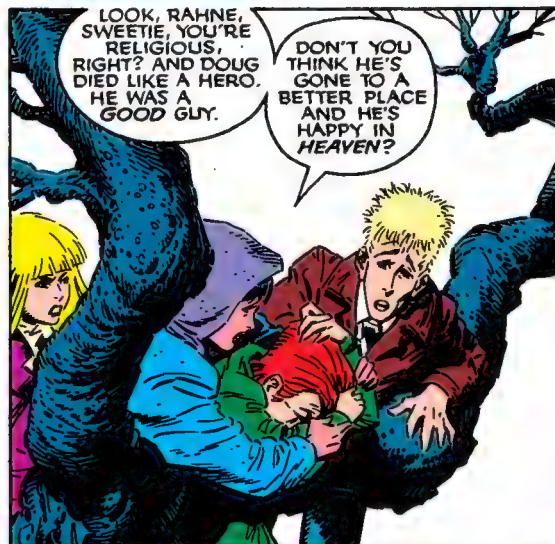
I BLAME THE PARENTS-- PLACING THOSE CHILDREN IN A BOARDING SCHOOL WHEN THEY SHOULD RIGHTFULLY BE HOME WITH THEIR FAMILIES!



THERE SHE IS!

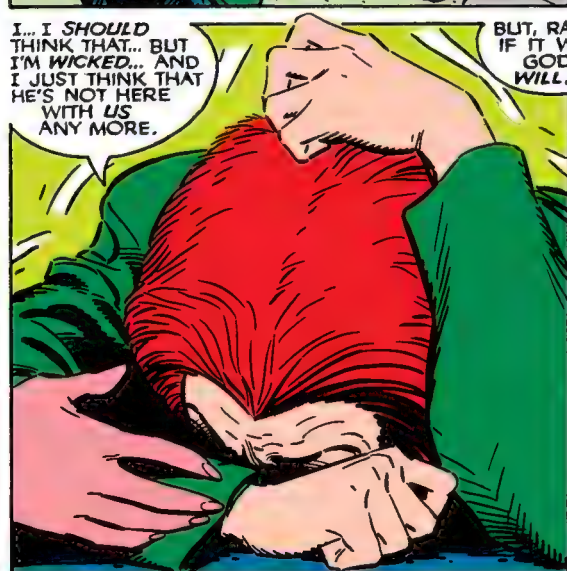
AH GUESS WE SHOULD COUNT OUR BLESSIN'S SHE DIDN'T TURN INTO A WOLF BACK THERE.

WHAT'LL WE DO? WHAT CAN WE SAY TO HER?



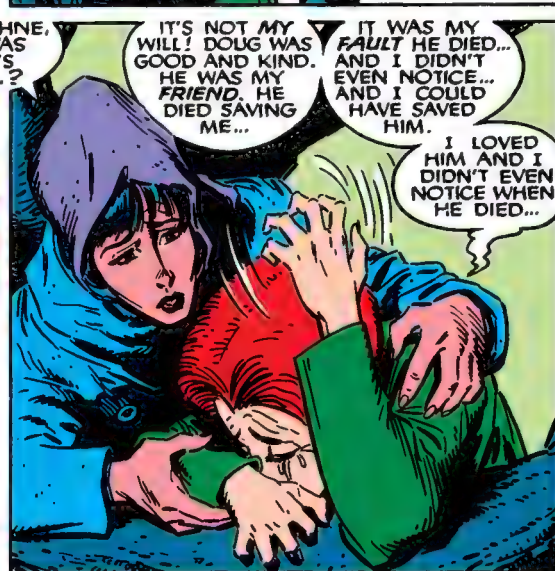
LOOK, RAHNE, SWEETIE, YOU'RE RELIGIOUS, RIGHT? AND DOUG DIED LIKE A HERO. HE WAS A GOOD GUY.

DON'T YOU THINK HE'S GONE TO A BETTER PLACE AND HE'S HAPPY IN HEAVEN?



I... I SHOULD THINK THAT... BUT I'M WICKED... AND I JUST THINK THAT HE'S NOT HERE WITH US ANY MORE.

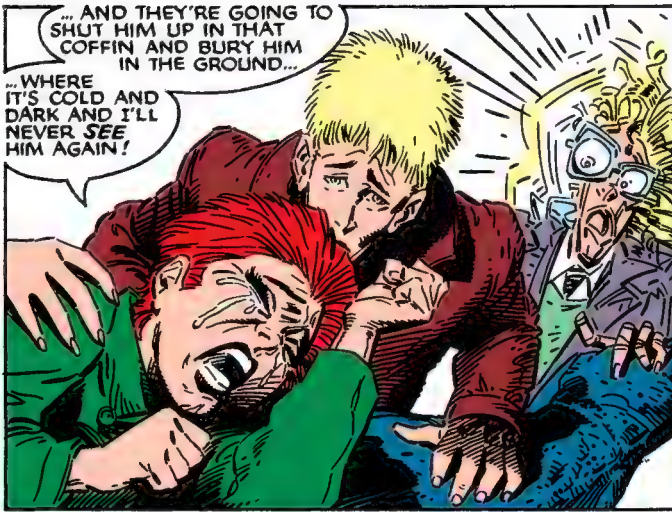
BUT, RAHNE, IF IT WAS GOD'S WILL...?



IT'S NOT MY WILL! DOUG WAS GOOD AND KIND. HE WAS MY FRIEND. HE DIED SAVING ME...

IT WAS MY FAULT HE DIED... AND I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE... AND I COULD HAVE SAVED HIM.

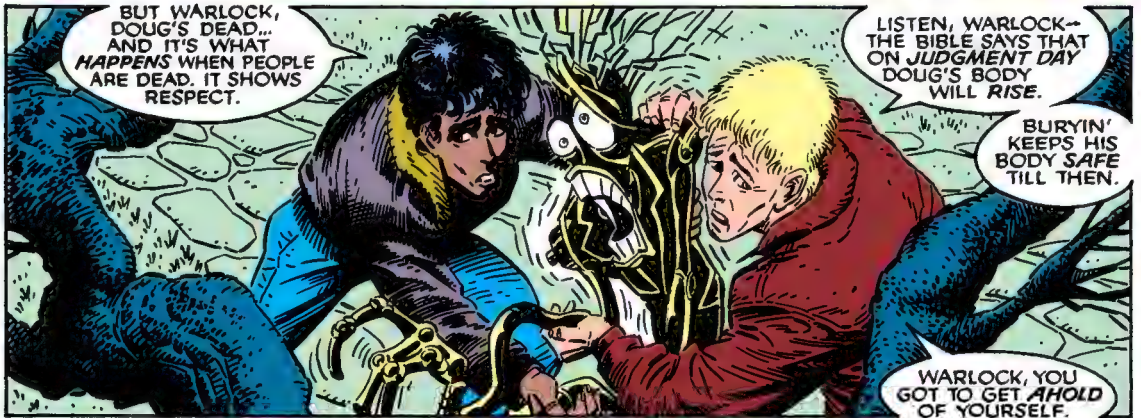
I LOVED HIM AND I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE WHEN HE DIED...



... AND THEY'RE GOING TO SHUT HIM UP IN THAT COFFIN AND BURY HIM IN THE GROUND...
... WHERE IT'S COLD AND DARK AND I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN!



MEN WILL BURY SELFRIENDOUG IN BOX... AWAY FROM LIGHT AND SUN FOREVER...?
NO! ALARM! ALARM! SELF MUST STOP THEM! NO!

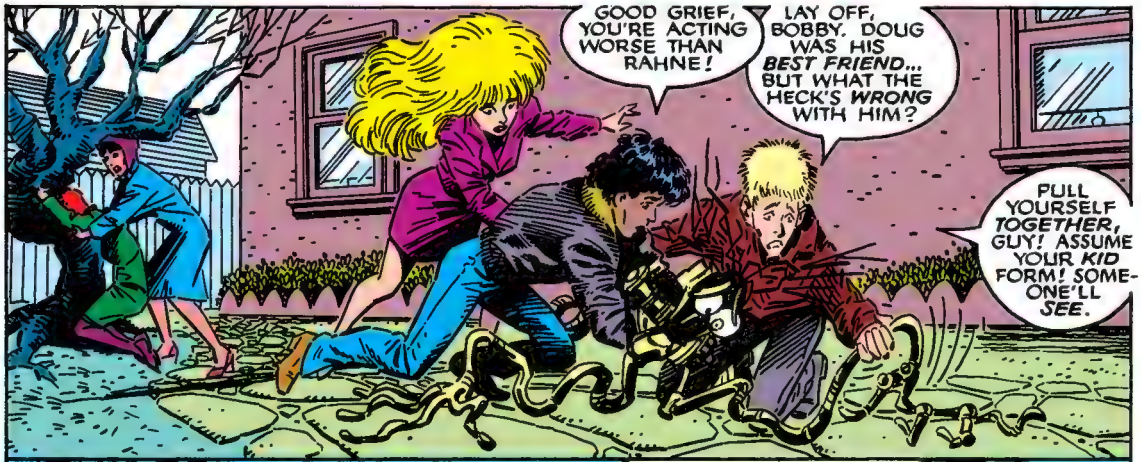


BUT WARLOCK, DOUG'S DEAD... AND IT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE ARE DEAD. IT SHOWS RESPECT.

LISTEN, WARLOCK-- THE BIBLE SAYS THAT ON JUDGMENT DAY DOUG'S BODY WILL RISE.

BURYIN' KEEPS HIS BODY SAFE TILL THEN.

WARLOCK, YOU GOT TO GET AHOOLD OF YOURSELF.



GOOD GRIEF, YOU'RE ACTING WORSE THAN RAHNE!

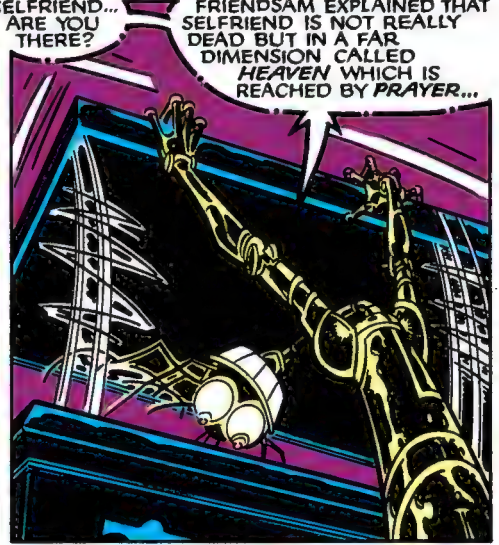
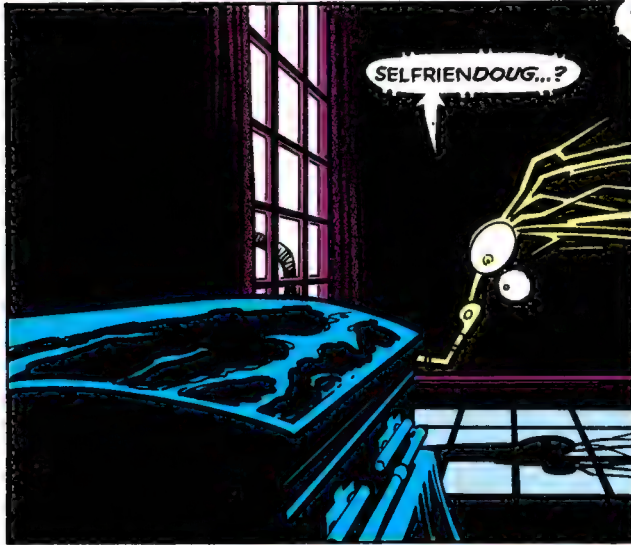
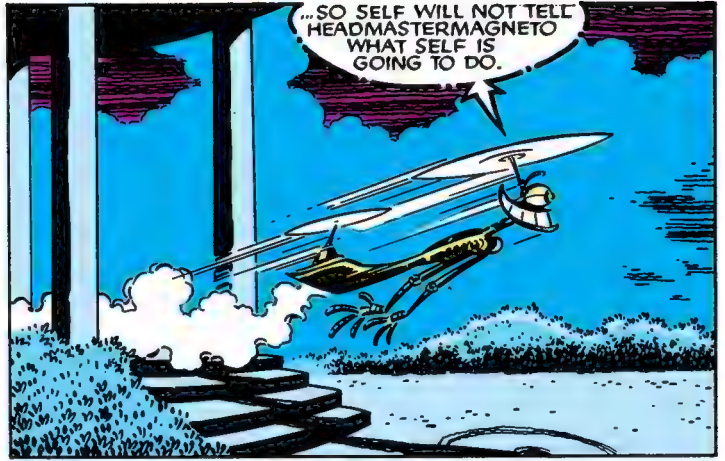
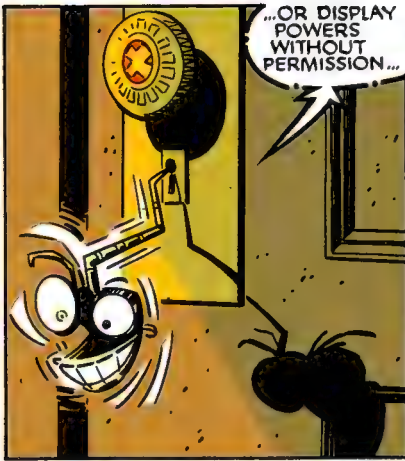
LAY OFF, BOBBY. DOUG WAS HIS BEST FRIEND... BUT WHAT THE HECK'S WRONG WITH HIM?

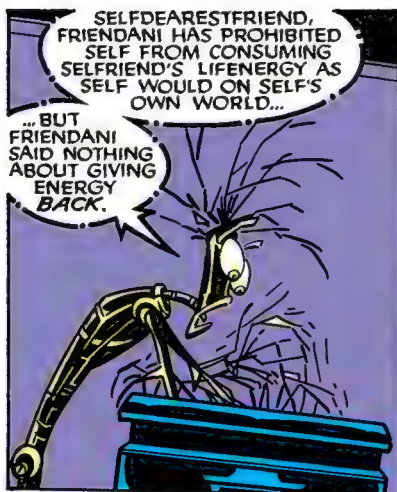
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, GUY! ASSUME YOUR KID FORM! SOME-ONE'LL SEE.

AND THAT NIGHT...



HEADMASTERMAGNETOSIR SAID NEW MUTANTS MUST NOT LEAVE SCHOOL...



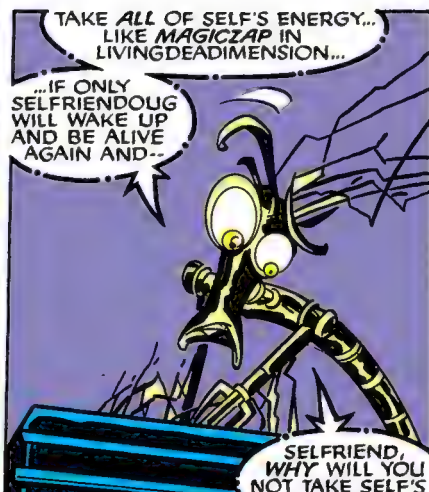


SELFDEARESTFRIEND,
FRIENDANI HAS PROHIBITED
SELF FROM CONSUMING
SELFRIEND'S LIFENERGY AS
SELF WOULD ON SELF'S
OWN WORLD...

...BUT
FRIENDANI
SAID NOTHING
ABOUT GIVING
ENERGY
BACK.



PLEASE,
SELFRIENDOUG,
TAKE BACK
LIFENERGY YOU
ONCE GAVE
TO SELF...



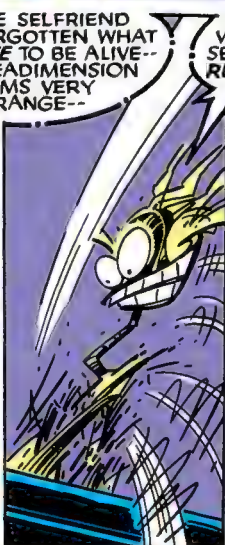
TAKE ALL OF SELF'S ENERGY...
LIKE MAGICZAP IN
LIVINGDEADIMENSION...

...IF ONLY
SELFRIENDOUG
WILL WAKE UP
AND BE ALIVE
AGAIN AND--

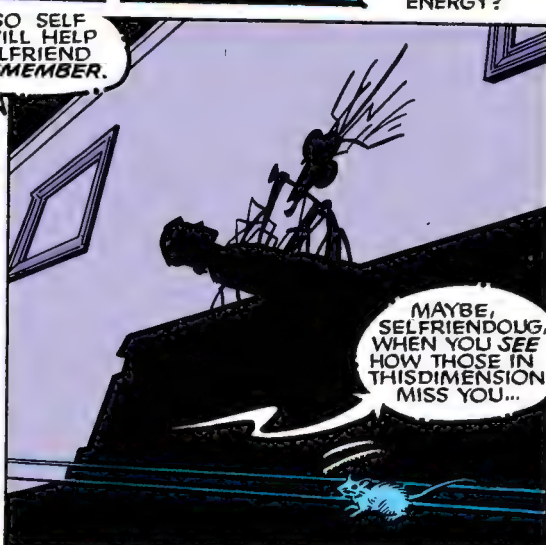
SELFRIEND,
WHY WILL YOU
NOT TAKE SELF'S
ENERGY?



MAYBE SELFRIEND
HAS FORGOTTEN WHAT
IT IS LIKE TO BE ALIVE--
LIVINGDEADIMENSION
SEEMS VERY
STRANGE--



SO SELF
WILL HELP
SELFRIEND
REMEMBER.



MAYBE,
SELFRIENDOUG,
WHEN YOU SEE
HOW THOSE IN
THISDIMENSION
MISS YOU...



...YOU WILL **DECIDE**
TO TAKE SELF'S
MAGICENERGYZAP,
AFTER ALL.



EXCLAMATION:
SELFRIEND IS STIFF
FROM LYING IN
COFFINDARKBOX.



CONCLUSION:
THAT IS WHY
LIVINGDEAD-
ENTITIES WALK
AS THEY DO.



COME, FRIENDOUG!
SELF WILL SHOW
FRIENDOUG WHY FRIEND
MUST NOW EXPERIENCE
RESURRECTION OF
LIVINGDEAD.

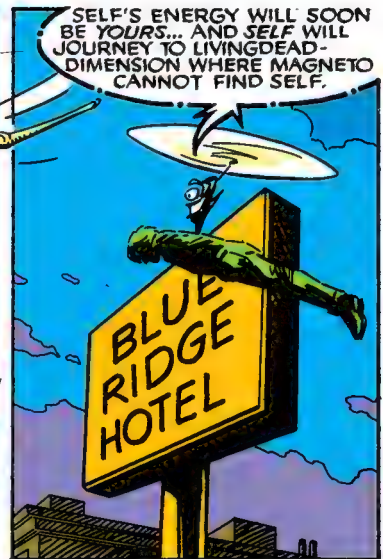
CRASH!



SELFRIEND, SELF
HAS SET OFF ALARMS.
MAGNETOHEADMASTER-
SIR WILL BE ANGRY
WITH SELF.

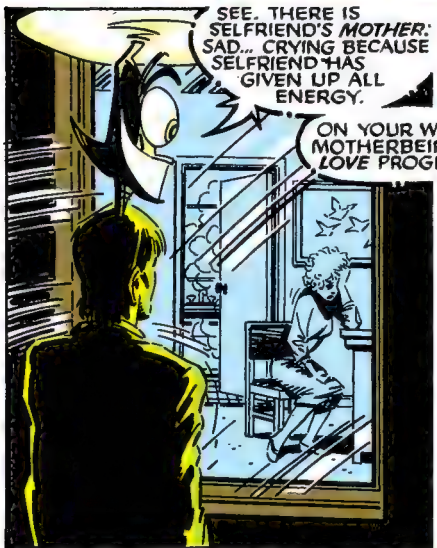
**BRANGA
BRANGA
BRANGA!**

BUT DO
NOT WORRY,
SELFDEAR-
FRIEND.



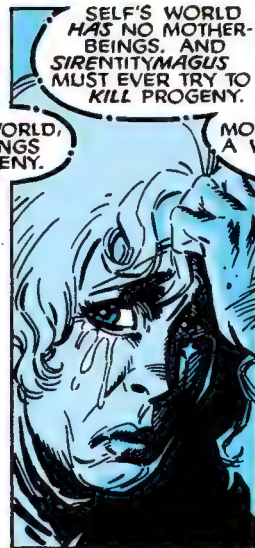
SELF'S ENERGY WILL SOON
BE YOURS... AND SELF WILL
BE JOURNEY TO LIVINGDEAD-
DIMENSION WHERE MAGNETO
CANNOT FIND SELF.

**BLUE
RIDGE
HOTEL**



SEE. THERE IS
SELFRIEND'S MOTHER.
SAD... CRYING BECAUSE
SELFRIEND HAS
GIVEN UP ALL
ENERGY.

ON YOUR WORLD,
MOTHERBEINGS
LOVE PROGENY.



SELF'S WORLD
HAS NO MOTHER-
BEINGS. AND
SIRENTITYMAGUS
MUST EVER TRY TO
KILL PROGENY.

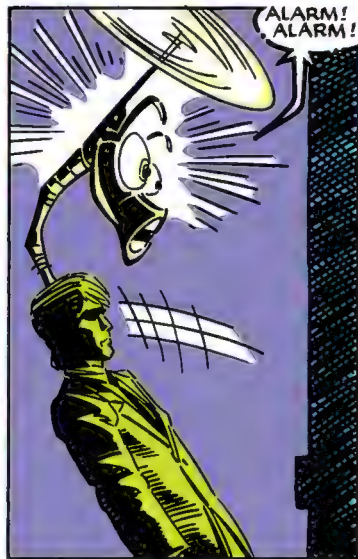


IS NOT A
MOTHERBEING
A WONDERFUL
THING?

WILL NOT
SELFRIEND'S
MOTHER-
BEING BE
HAPPY TO SEE
SELFRIEND
ALIVE?



**DOUG!
A GHOST!
Noooo!**

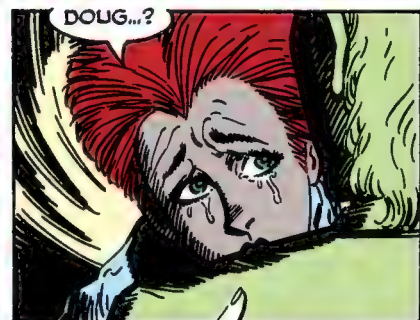
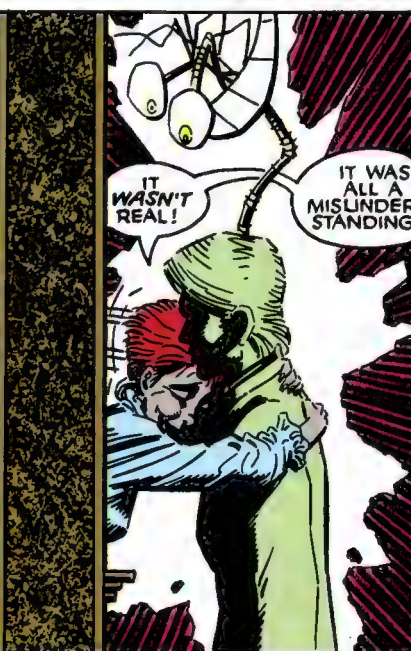
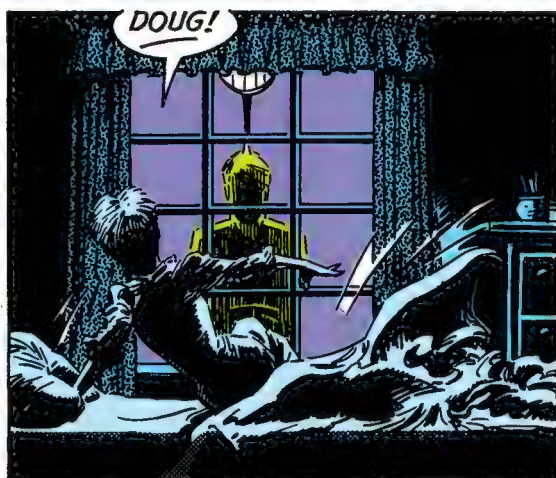
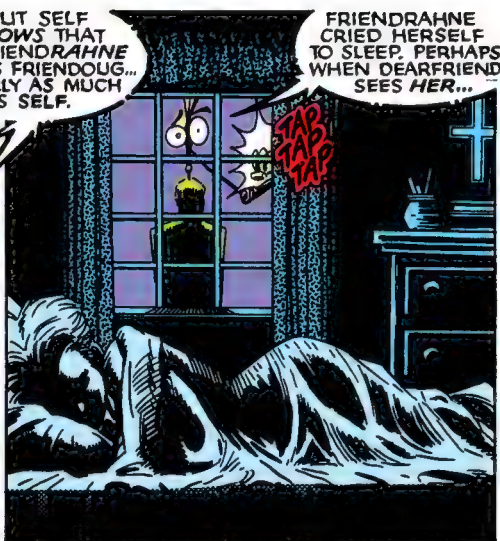
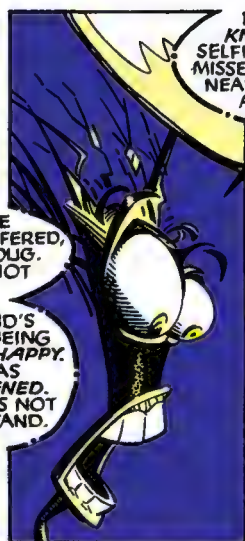


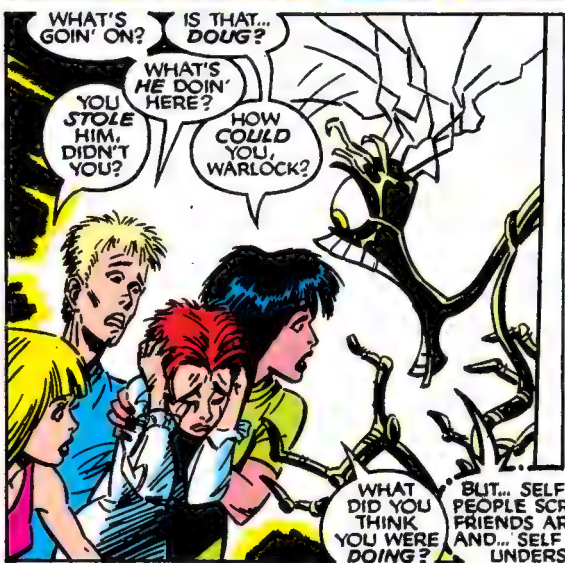
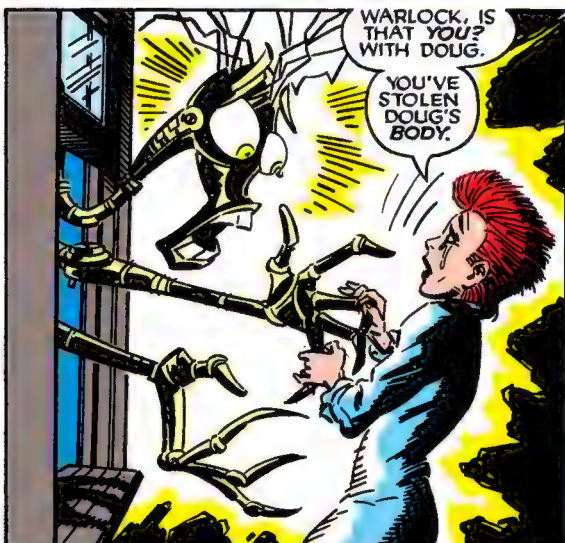
**ALARM!
ALARM!**



**A
GHOST?**

**AT THE WINDOW!
DOUG! AND A... A
HORRIBLE GRINNING
HEAD HOVERING OVER
HIM. HORRIBLE.
HORRIBLE.**







LISTEN, RAHNE, WARLOCK'S JUST DOING WHAT YOU WERE TRYING TO DO IN THE DANGER ROOM EARLIER.

HE'S TRYING TO BRING DOUG BACK! HE'S TRYING TO SAVE HIM!



HE... HE IS...?

I SEE... I GUESS... OH, WARLOCK, YOU FEEL AS BAD AS I DO, DON'T YOU?

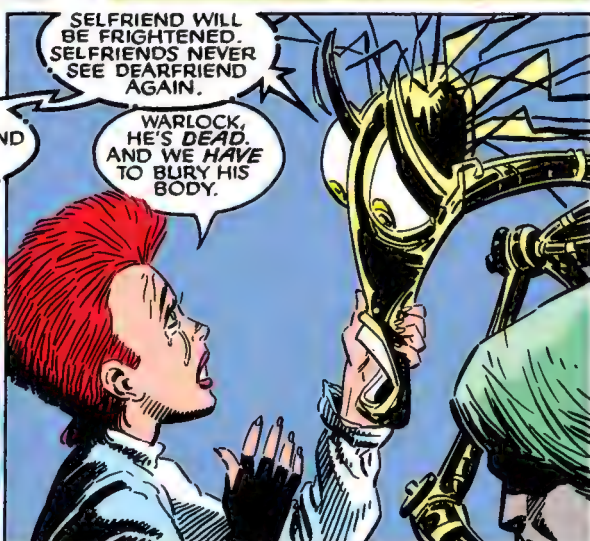
BUT, WARLOCK... IT WON'T WORK. NOTHING WILL WORK. YOU'VE MADE ME REALIZE... HE IS DEAD!



AND ALL THE WISHING OR PRETENDING IN THE WORLD CAN'T MAKE IT OTHER-WISE.

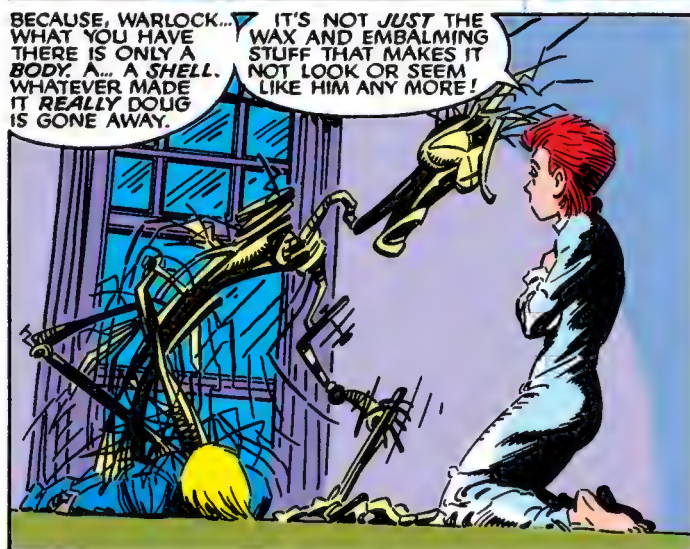
YOU CAN'T CARRY HIM AROUND LIKE THAT, WARLOCK. YOU HAVE TO PUT HIM BACK.

NO! MEN WILL PUT SELFDEARESTFRIEND IN A DARK HOLE!



SELFRIEND WILL BE FRIGHTENED. SELFRIENDS NEVER SEE DEARFRIEND AGAIN.

WARLOCK, HE'S DEAD. AND WE HAVE TO BURY HIS BODY.



BECAUSE, WARLOCK... WHAT YOU HAVE THERE IS ONLY A BODY. A... A SHELL. WHATEVER MADE IT REALLY DOUG IS GONE AWAY.

IT'S NOT JUST THE WAX AND EMBALMING STUFF THAT MAKES IT NOT LOOK OR SEEM LIKE HIM ANY MORE!



IT'S JUST A SHELL WE'RE BURYING. DOUG... DOUG'S SAFE IN HEAVEN.

GIVE IT BACK, WARLOCK. PLEASE, LET HIM GO.

SOON...

AH HATE TA
BREAK THIS UP,
BUT WE GOTTA
GET DOUG
BACK.

THEY'RE BURYING
HIM TOMORROW
AN' SOONER 'R
LATER, SOME-
BODY'S GONNA
NOTICE HE'S
MISSING.

ALL RIGHT.
WE'RE READY
NOW... AREN'T
WE, 'LOCK?

I'M GONNA
'PORT US
DIRECTLY...

...TO THE
ROOM WITH THE
COFFIN
AND--

SSSH!
Somebody's
there.

--AWAKENED
BY THE ALARM!
THERE'S BEEN A
BREAK-IN,
OFFICERS...

...AND THE
BODY OF
DOUG RAMSEY,
THE LAD FROM
XAVIER'S
SCHOOL, IS
GONE.

YOU SURE?

CERTAINLY.
NEVER HAVE
MY EYES
SEEN THE
LIKE IN
TWENTY
YEARS OF--

OK,
NO!

WE
BETTER
HURRY!

GET HIM
INTO THE
COFFIN.

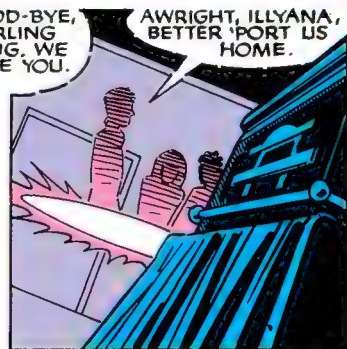
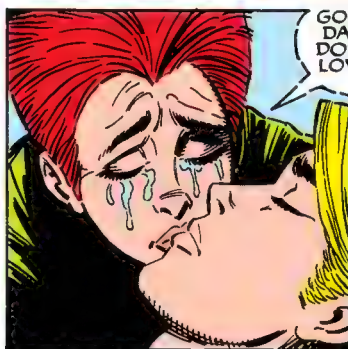
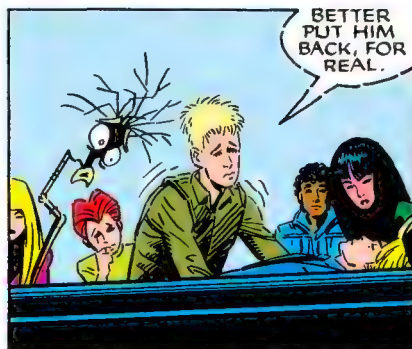
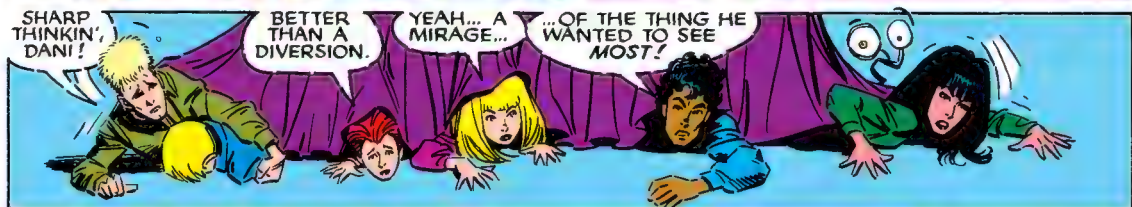
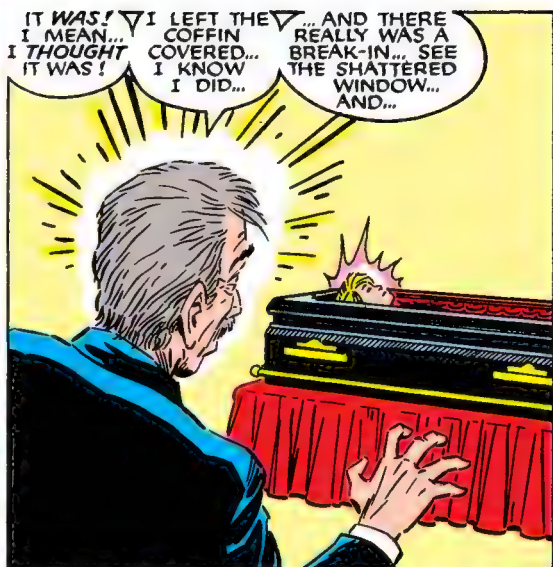
WE
DON'T
HAVE
TIME.

HERE
THEY
COME.

THEY'LL
SEE.

WHAT'LL
WE DO--?

SOME-
BODY,
CREATE A
DIVERSION!
QUICK!



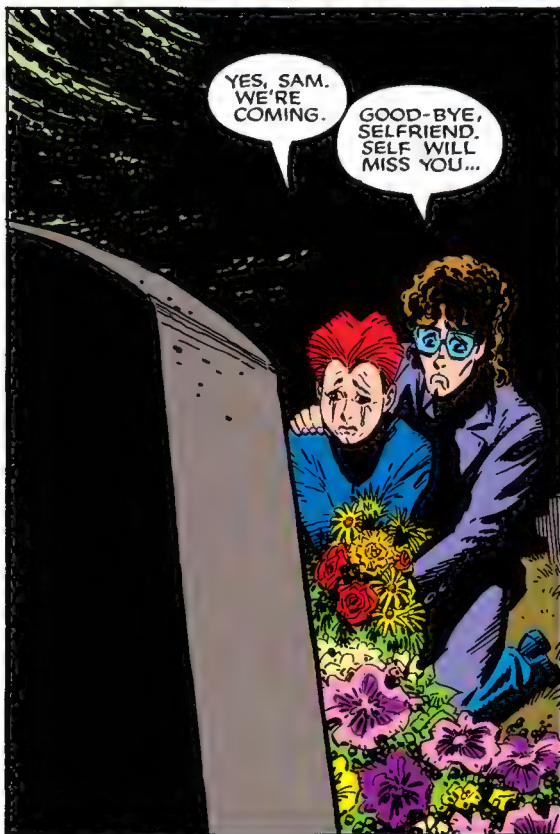
THE NEXT DAY...



...AND MAY HE REST IN PEACE. AMEN.



RAHNE... YOU AN' 'LOCK READY?



YES, SAM. WE'RE COMING.

GOOD-BYE, SELFRIEND. SELF WILL MISS YOU...



...AND A PIECE OF SELF WILL ALWAYS BE IN HEAVENDIMENSION OF LIVINGDEAD WITH YOU.

THAT EVENING...

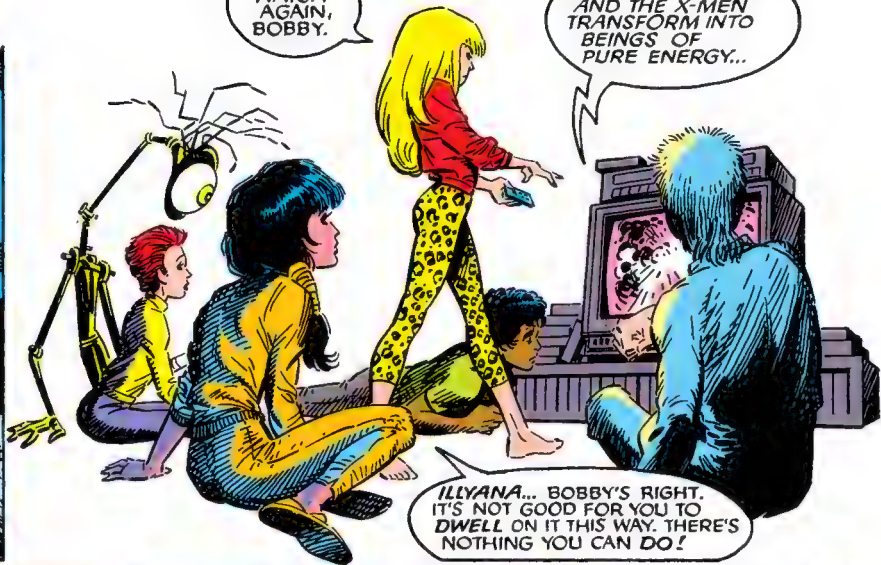
FORGE STARTS CHANTING... AND SOMEHOW, HIS VERY WORDS-- THE VERY SOUNDS THEMSELVES-- TAKE ON A PALPABLE, PHYSICAL FORCE.



Oh NO! NOT THIS AGAIN. ILLYANA, WE KNOW HOW YOUR BROTHER-- ALL THE X-MEN-- DIED. BY HEART. WE'VE SEEN IT A MILLION TIMES.

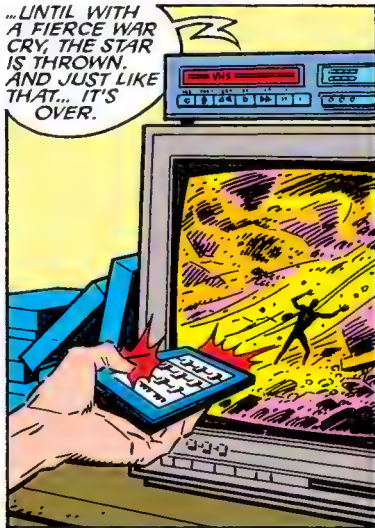
WELL, WATCH AGAIN, BOBBY.

FORGE GESTURES... AND THE X-MEN TRANSFORM INTO BEINGS OF PURE ENERGY...

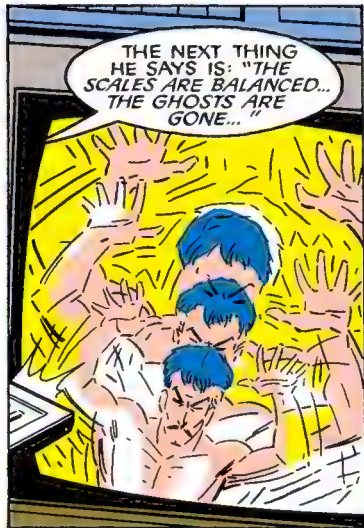


ILLYANA... BOBBY'S RIGHT. IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO DWELL ON IT THIS WAY. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO!

...UNTIL WITH A FIERCE WAR CRY, THE STAR IS THROWN. AND JUST LIKE THAT... IT'S OVER.



THE NEXT THING HE SAYS IS: "THE SCALES ARE BALANCED... THE GHOSTS ARE GONE..."

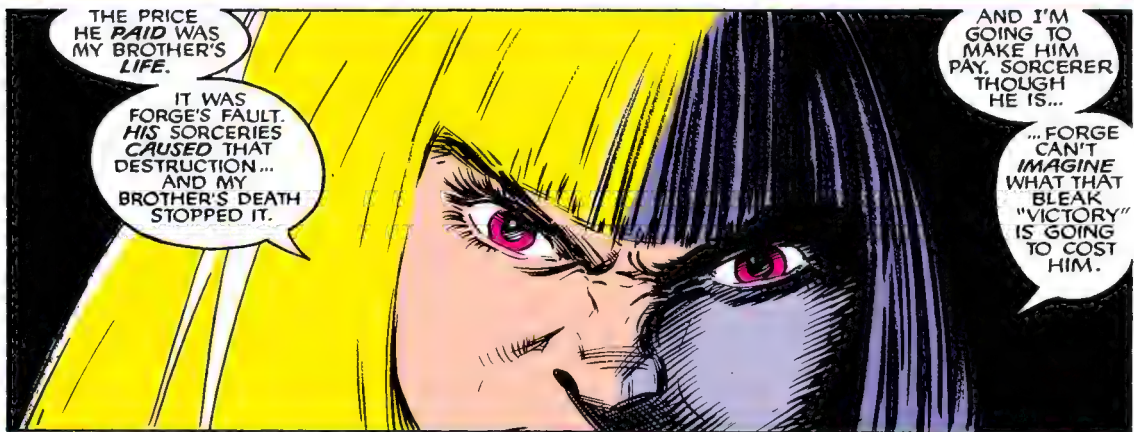


...THAT THE SPIRITS OF HIS FRIENDS ARE FREE TO REST IN PEACE AND THE PRICE ISN'T WORTH THE VICTORY.



THE PRICE HE PAID WAS MY BROTHER'S LIFE.

IT WAS FORGE'S FAULT. HIS SORCERIES CAUSED THAT DESTRUCTION... AND MY BROTHER'S DEATH STOPPED IT.



AND I'M GOING TO MAKE HIM PAY, SORCERER THOUGH HE IS...

...FORGE CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT THAT BLEAK "VICTORY" IS GOING TO COST HIM.

NEXT ISSUE:

SHE'LL MAKE HIM PAY... OVER FREEDOM FORCE'S DEAD BODIES!

DON'T MISS IT!



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THE NEW MUTANTS[®]



DEMONS!

THE TEENAGERS WHO ATTEND PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS WERE BORN WITH A MUTANT GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT GIVES THEM MORE-THAN-HUMAN POWERS.

THESE POWERS CAN MAKE IT EASY TO BELIEVE THAT MIGHT MAKES RIGHT... AND THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO STAND BETWEEN YOU AND WHATEVER IT IS THAT YOU DESIRE...

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
WE'VE GOT TO KILL HIM!



CREATED BY
CHRIS CLAREMONT
AND BOB McLEOD

LOUISE SIMONSON
WRITER

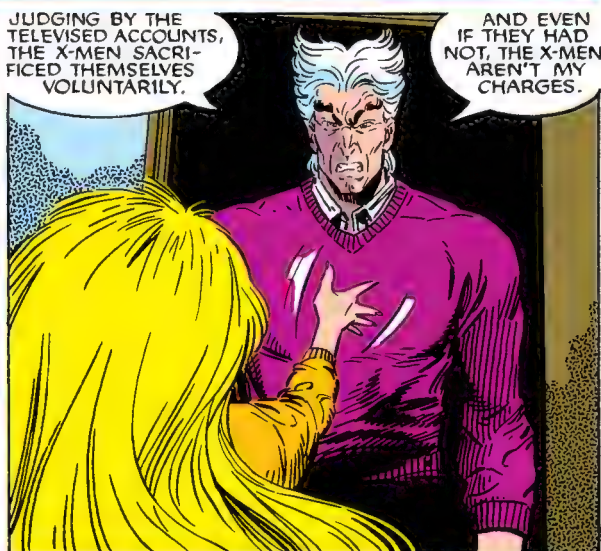
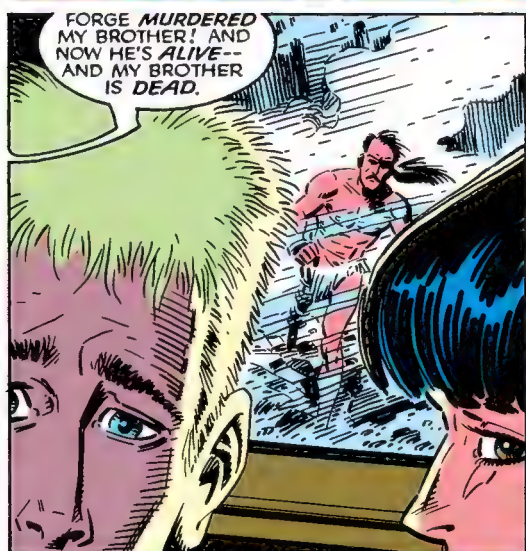
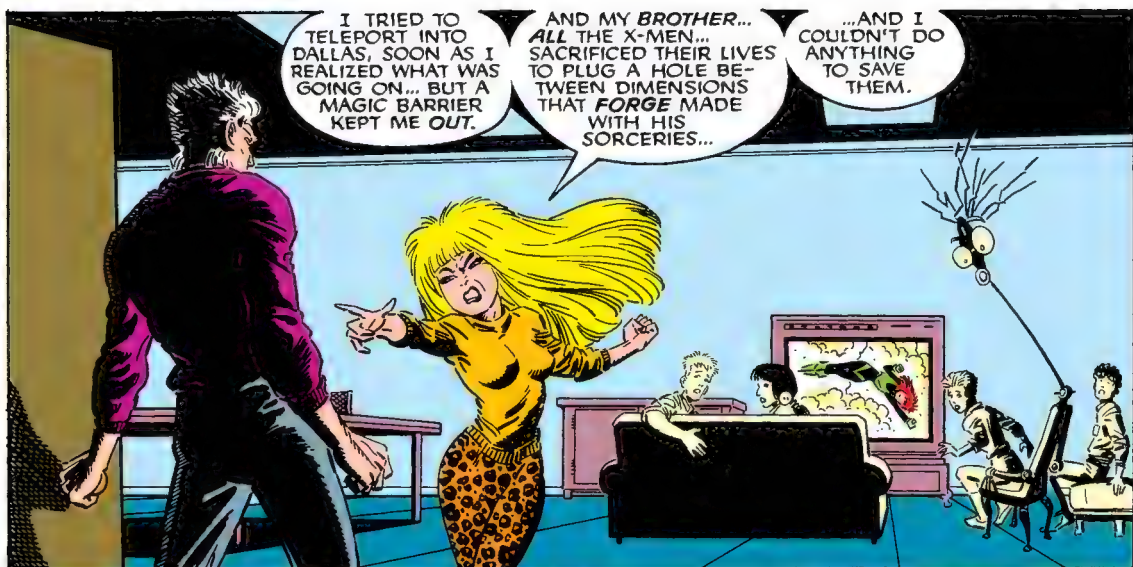
BRET BLEVINS
PENCILER

TERRY AUSTIN
INKER

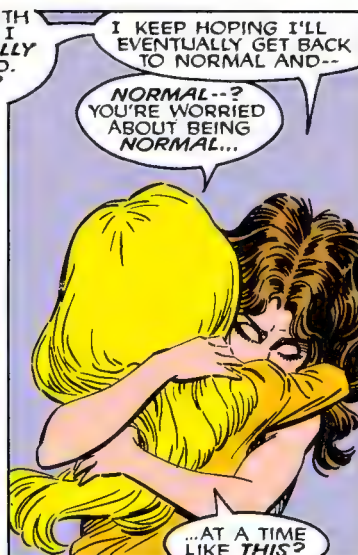
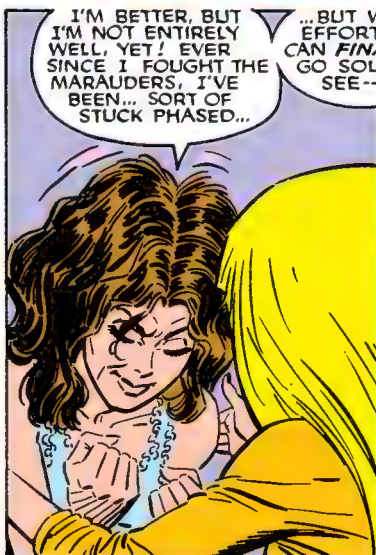
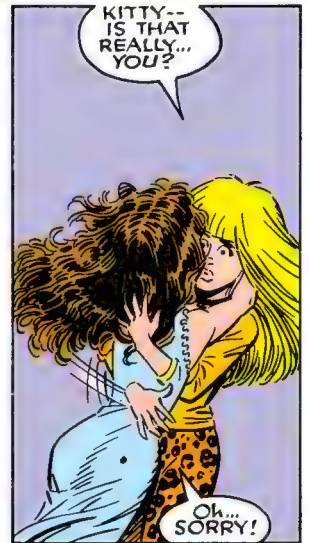
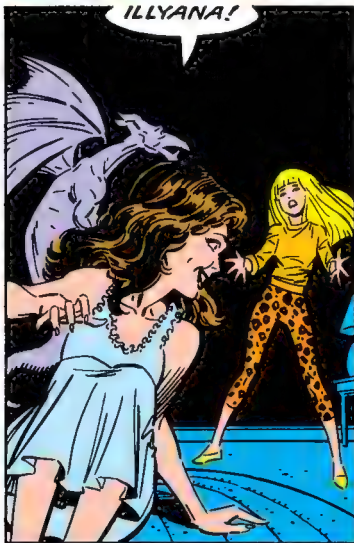
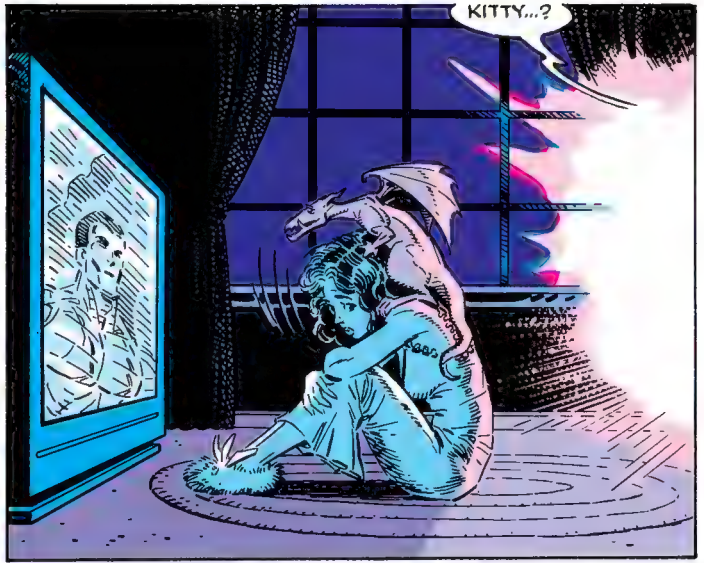
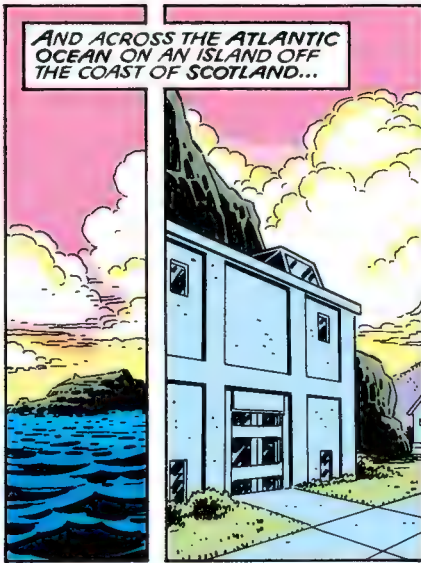
TOM ORZECOWSKI, LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF







LOOK... I KNOW ABOUT THE X-MEN... AND PETER! HOW COULD I NOT KNOW? WHAT HAPPENED IN DALLAS IS STILL ALL OVER TV!

AND MOIRA TOLD US... ABOUT DOUG! BUT ILLYANA, THE X-MEN WERE INVOLVED IN A KIND OF WAR... AND IN A WAR, PEOPLE DIE.

I ALMOST DIED WHEN WE FOUGHT THE MARAUDERS. SO DID NIGHT-CRAWLER... AND PETER. * IT... GIVES YOU A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.

PERSPECTIVE-- HA! YOU JUST MEAN YOU DON'T CARE! AND MAGNETO DOESN'T CARE! NOBODY CARES... BUT ME!

*SEE X-MEN #211. Ahh.

ILLYANA, I'M YOUR BEST FRIEND. OF COURSE I CARE. BUT THE X-MEN ARE GONE, ILLYANA.

EVEN MAGNETO, FOR ALL HIS POWER, CAN'T BRING THEM BACK.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE SUCH A BABY?

I WISH I COULD ACT LIKE A BABY! BABIES HAVE OTHER PEOPLE... GROWNUPS... TO DO THE HARD THINGS FOR THEM.

I CAME TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP. ONLY YOU'RE TOO MATURE, ALL OF A SUDDEN, TO BOTHER.

NOBODY WANTS TO DO ANYTHING EXCEPT ME!

BUT DON'T WORRY, FORGE WILL PAY! I'LL MAKE FORGE PAY...

...IF I HAVE TO TURN TO SORCERY TO DO IT!

Oh, ILLYANA, WHY CAN'T YOU SEE THAT. NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE HAVE TO BE STRONG?

I... LOVED PETER. STORM WAS LIKE A MOTHER TO ME. HOW CAN YOU THINK I DON'T CARE...?

ILLYANA!

MEANWHILE...



JUST WHAT DO YOU KIDS THINK YOU'RE DOIN'?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE WE'RE DOING?
WE'RE PUTTING ON OUR SPECIAL COSTUMES... SO WE'LL BE READY TO DO SOMETHING WHEN ILLYANA COMES BACK!

DO WHAT-- HELP HER KILL FORGE?

DON'T YOU TWO REALIZE THAT FORGE ISN'T THE PROBLEM?

BUT SELFRIENDS... DID NOT HEAD-MASTERMAGNETO NOT COMMAND THAT SELFRIENDS STAY HOME...?



YES, WARLOCK, HE DID. BUT--

HE'S WRONG, AND HE CAN FORGET IT!

LOOK, THE X-MEN ARE DEAD, RIGHT? AND WE'RE ALL THAT'S LEFT.

SO WE HAVE TO FIGHT FOR RIGHT, REGARDLESS...

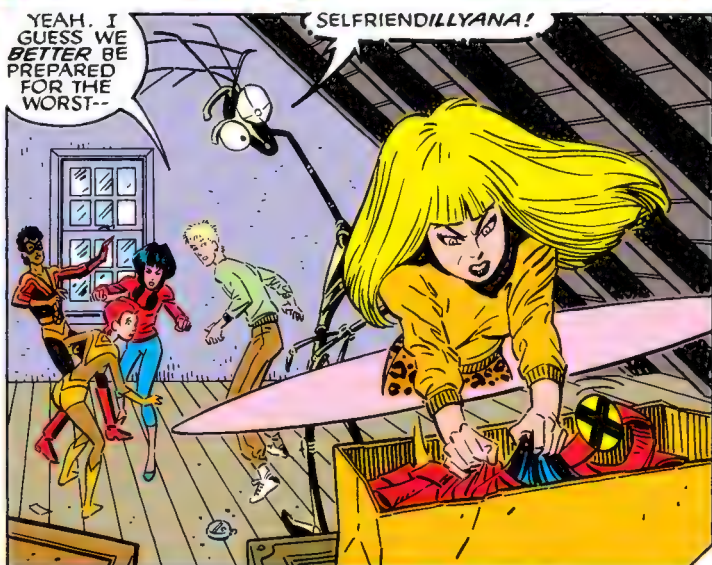
EVEN IF WE'RE IN THE WRONG?



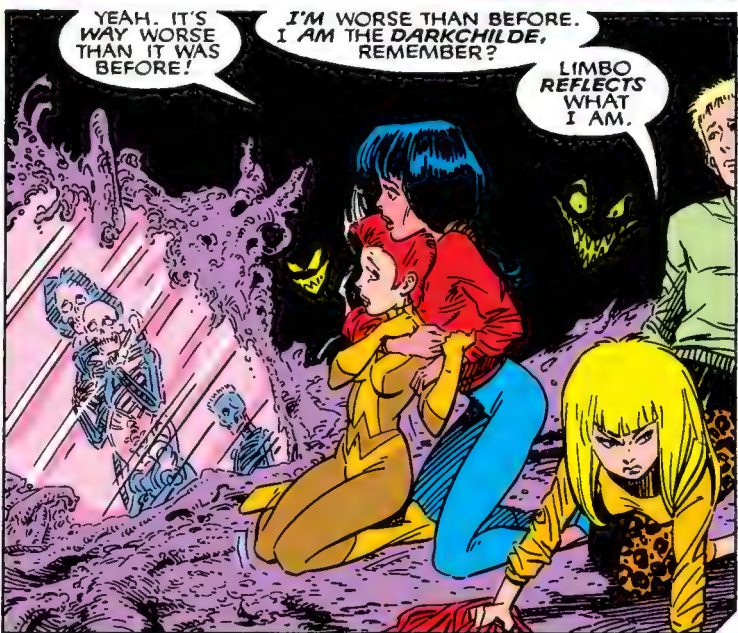
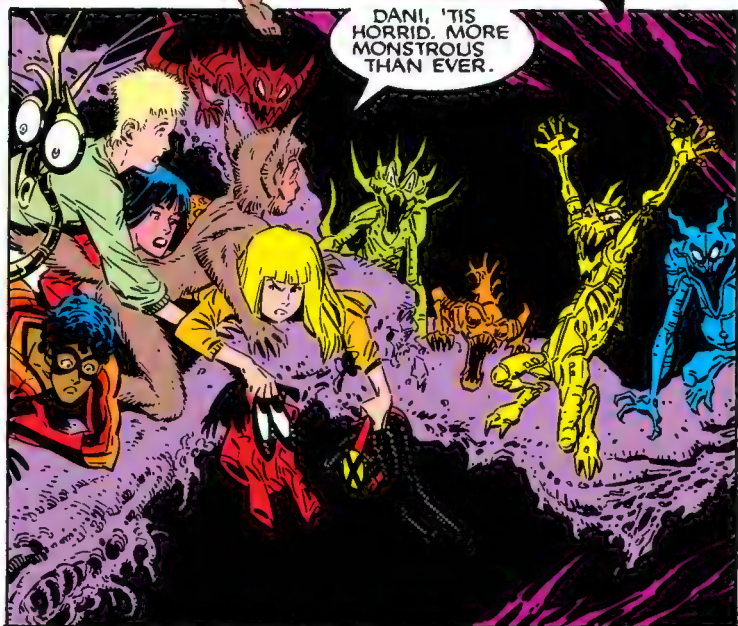
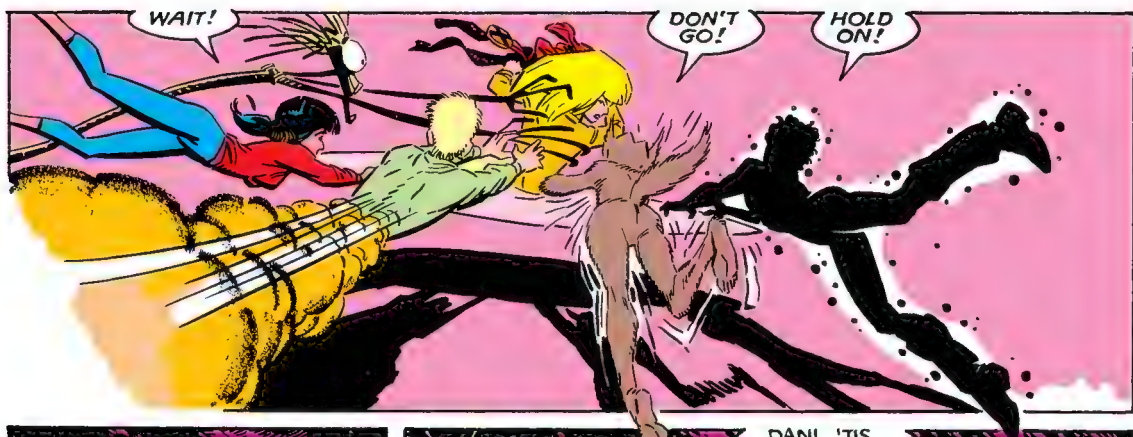
IF MAGNETO THINKS THAT THREATS WILL CONTROL US WE MUST SHOW HIM THAT HE IS WRONG!

YA KNOW, SAM, MAGNETO'S AS BULL-HEADED AS ILLYANA. MAYBE THEY'RE PARTLY RIGHT.

YEAH. I GUESS WE BETTER BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST--



SELFRIENDILLYANA!





ILLYANA, WHERE'D YOU TELEPORT TO... BEFORE?

I VISITED KITTY. TO TELL HER WHAT HAPPENED. TO SEE IF SHE WANTS TO COME WITH ME WHEN I KILL FORGE.

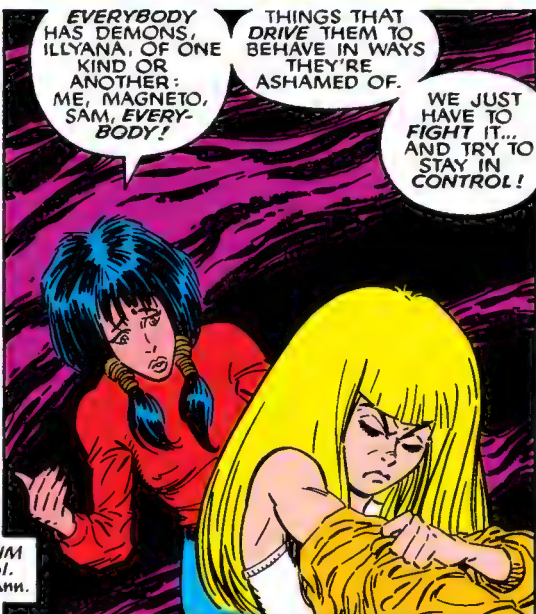
BUT SHE WASN'T INTERESTED!



ILLYANA, LISSSEN TA ME. YOU'RE OVER REACTIN'! FIRST WITH MAGNETO, *AN' NOW WITH FORGE.

YOU'RE SEEIN' DEMONS WHERE THEY DON'T EXIST.

DON'T TELL ME ABOUT DEMONS! I FELL INTO LIMBO WHEN I WAS PRACTICALLY A BABY. I GREW UP WITH DEMONS.



EVERYBODY HAS DEMONS, ILLYANA, OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER: ME, MAGNETO, SAM, EVERYBODY!

THINGS THAT DRIVE THEM TO BEHAVE IN WAYS THEY'RE ASHAMED OF.

WE JUST HAVE TO FIGHT IT... AND TRY TO STAY IN CONTROL!

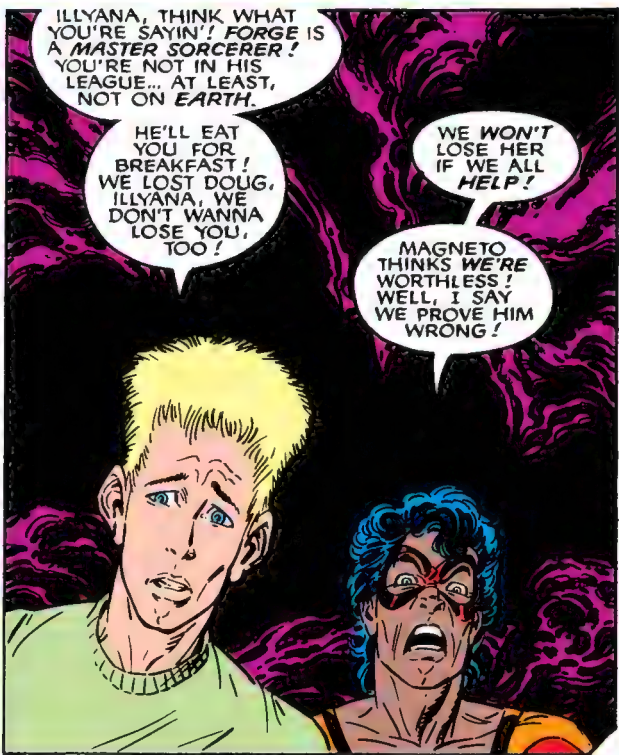
*NM #61.
--AHH.



WHAT GOOD DID CONTROL EVER DO ME?

ALL RIGHT! FORGE HAS BECOME ONE OF MY DEMONS...

...AND I'M GONNA KILL HIM, LIKE HE KILLED MY BROTHER!

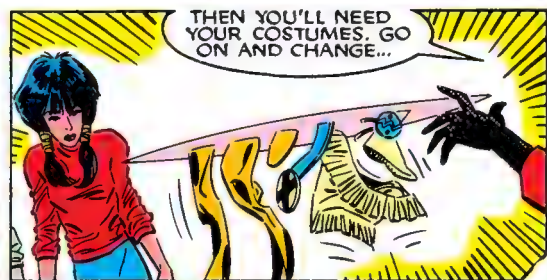
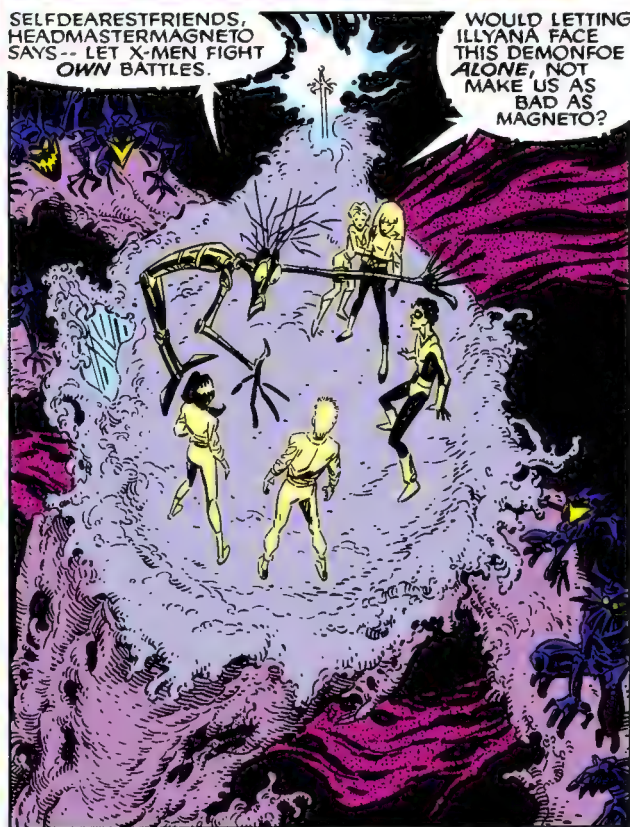


ILLYANA, THINK WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN'! FORGE IS A MASTER SORCERER! YOU'RE NOT IN HIS LEAGUE... AT LEAST, NOT ON EARTH.

HE'LL EAT YOU FOR BREAKFAST! WE LOST DOUG, ILLYANA, WE DON'T WANNA LOSE YOU, TOO!

WE WON'T LOSE HER IF WE ALL HELP!

MAGNETO THINKS WE'RE WORTHLESS! WELL, I SAY WE PROVE HIM WRONG!



...WHILE I CONJURE
MY SCRYING GLASS
AND LOOK FOR
FORGE!

BLAST...
I CAN'T
FIND--

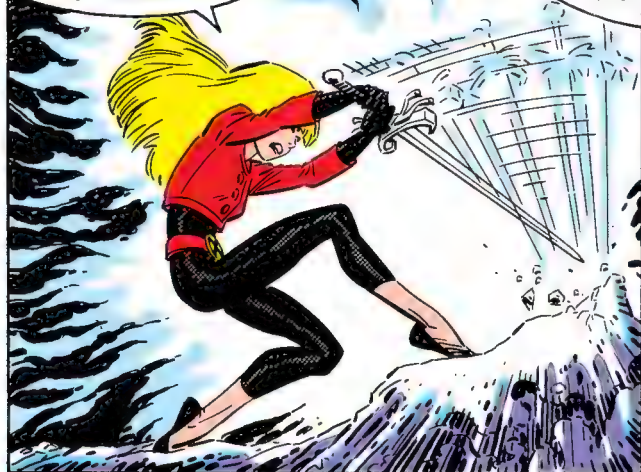
AH--
THERE!

YOU'RE NOT
REALLY GOING
TO KILL HIM...
ARE YOU,
ILLYANA?

HE DIDN'T
ACTUALLY
KILL YOUR
BROTHER.

HE OPENED THE PORTAL
THAT MY BROTHER... AND
THE OTHER X-MEN...
SACRIFICED THEMSELVES
TO CLOSE.

HE USED **BLACK
SORCERY** IRRESPONSIBLY!
IT'S **HIS** FAULT THAT
PETER IS GONE... AND
HE'S GOING TO
PAY!



ILLYANA, LEAVE THE
SWORD. IT BINDS LIMBO
UNDER YOUR CONTROL.

PLEASE,
LIMBO'S BAD
ENOUGH ALREADY.

MY SOUL-SWORD
CUTS THROUGH **MAGIC**.

I **NEED**
IT TO
FIGHT
HIM ON
EARTH.

IT'S
WORTH
THE
COST.

A COST SHE
CANNOT BEGIN
TO IMAGINE!
SHE'S GOING TO
KILL FORGE FOR
OPENING THAT
LITTLE
PORTAL?

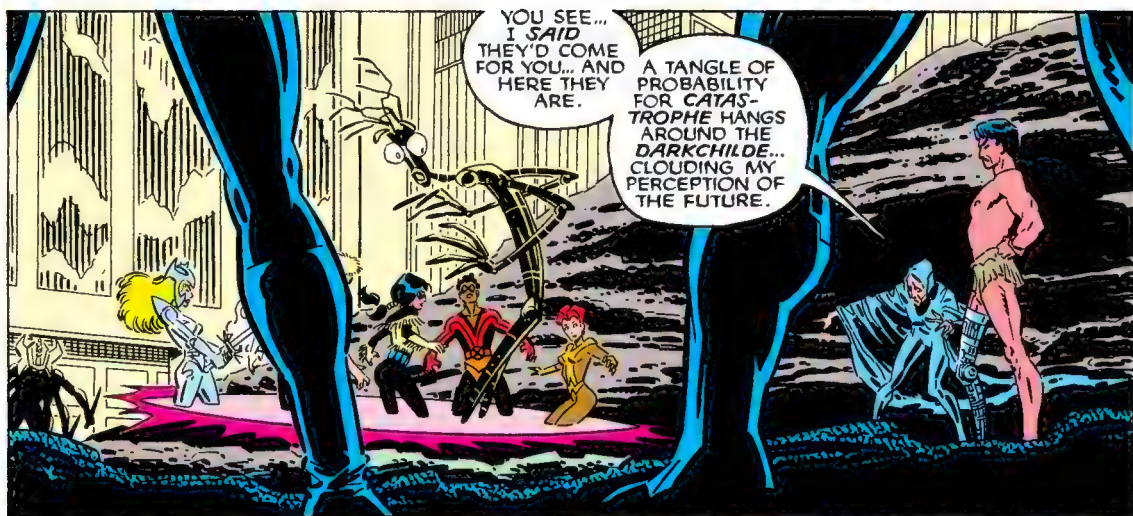
OH... THE
DELICIOUS
IRONY!

THE SWORD IS GONE...
PERHAPS FOR HOURS... AND
EVEN NOW, S'YM'S
POWER GROWS.

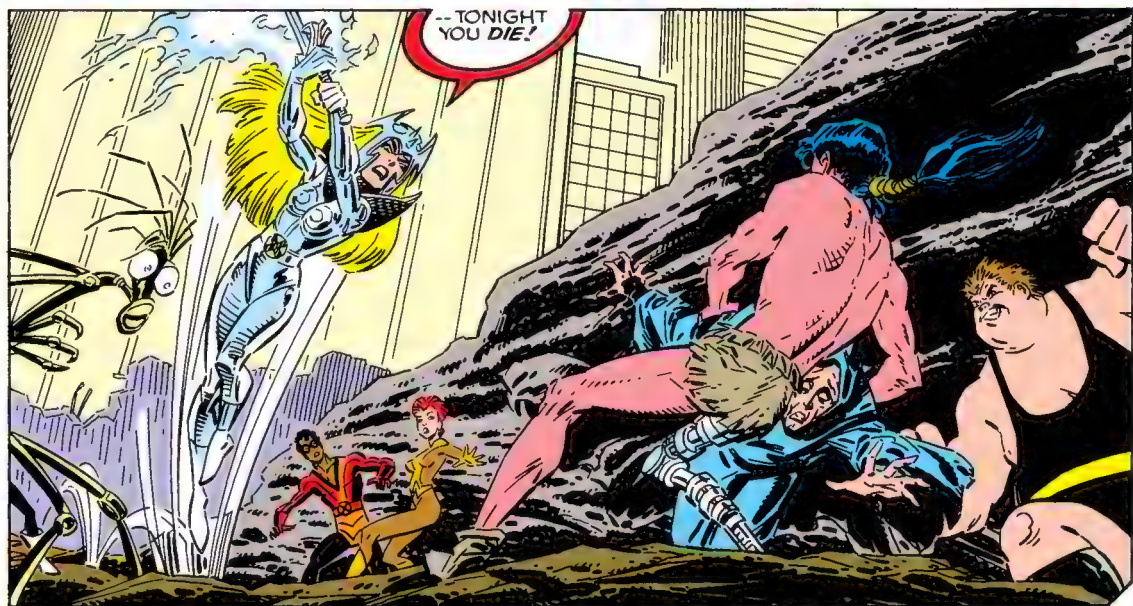
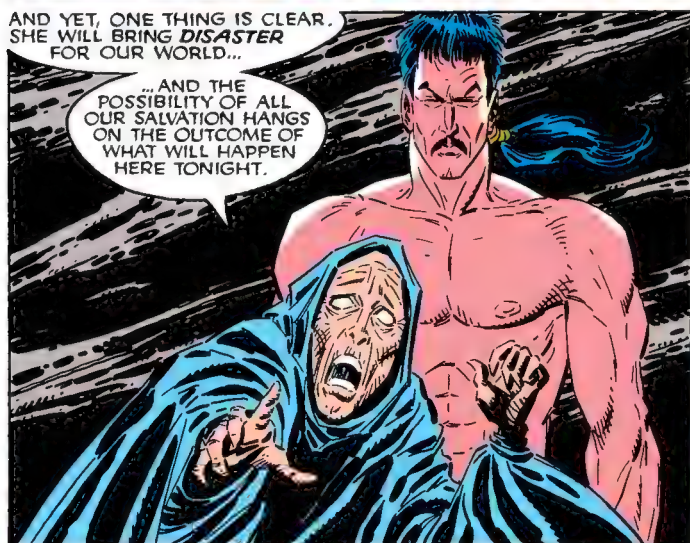
NOW IS
S'YM'S CHANCE
TO EXTEND
LIMBO'S
POWER.

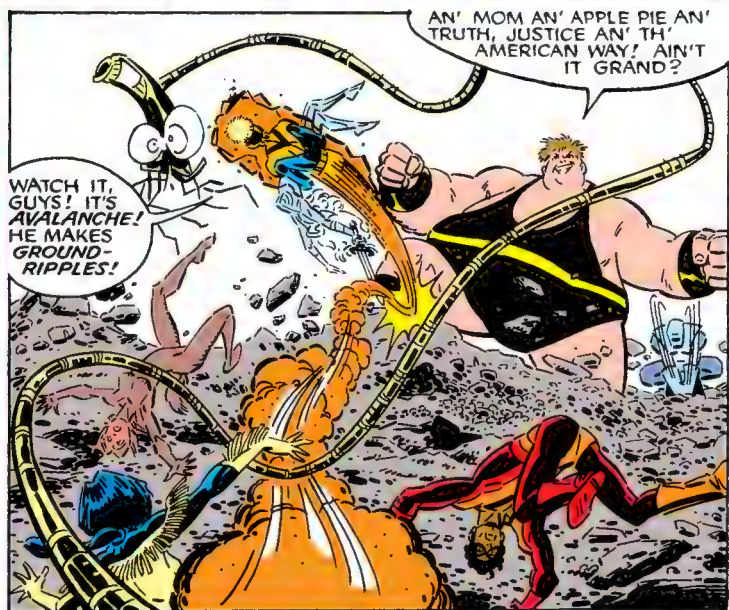
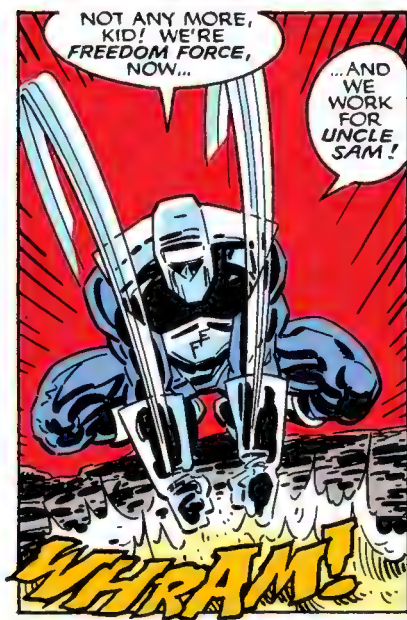
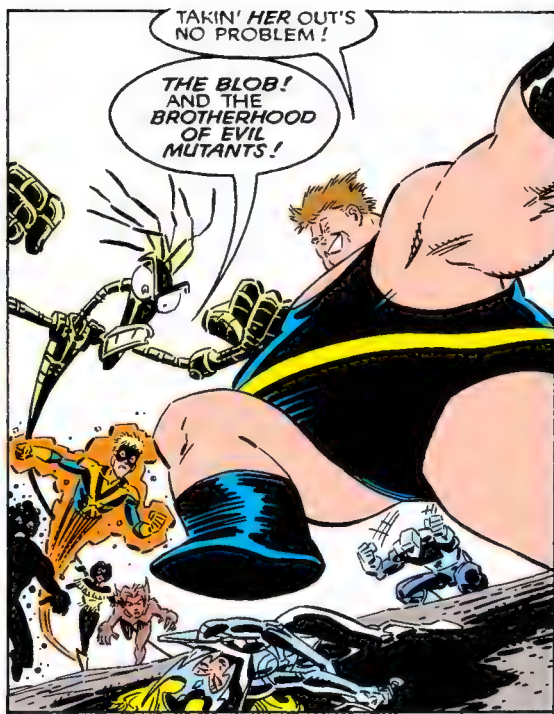
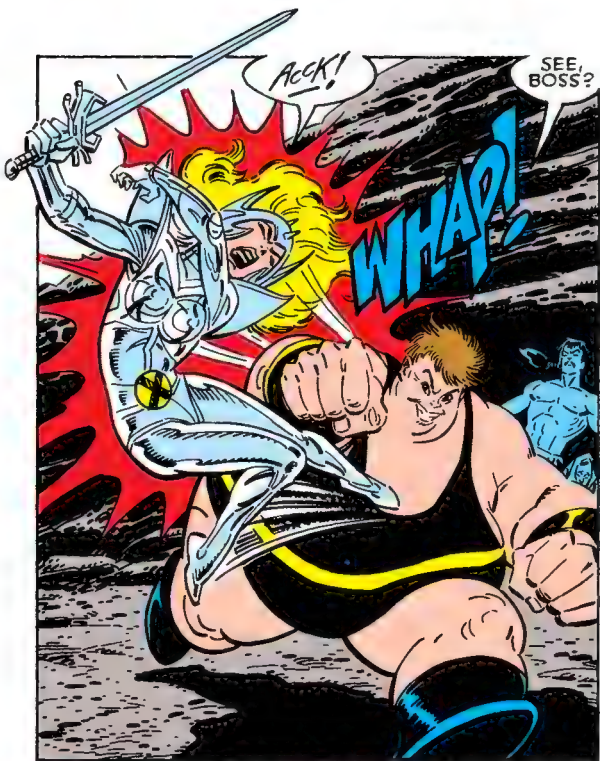
FORGE'S PORTAL IS
NOTHING, COMPARED
TO THE ONE THAT S'YM
WILL OPEN... WITH THE
DARKCHILDE'S
UNWILLING HELP.

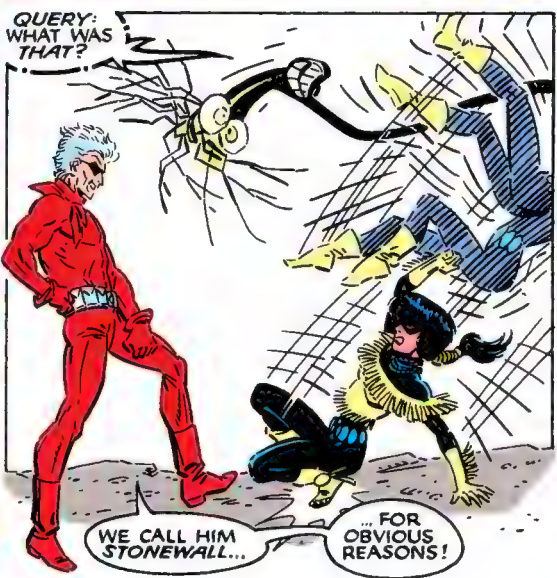
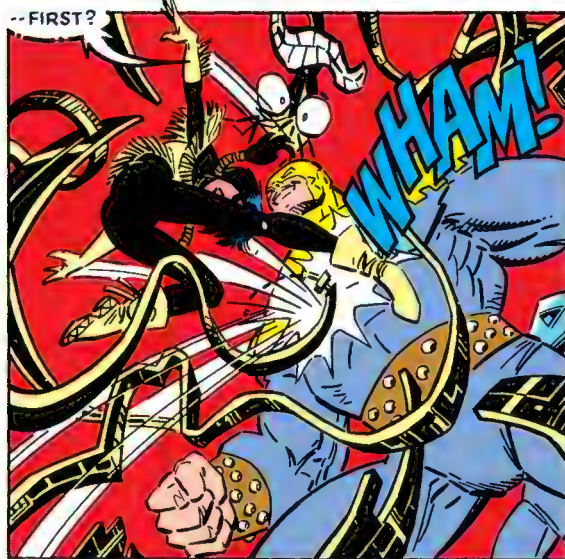
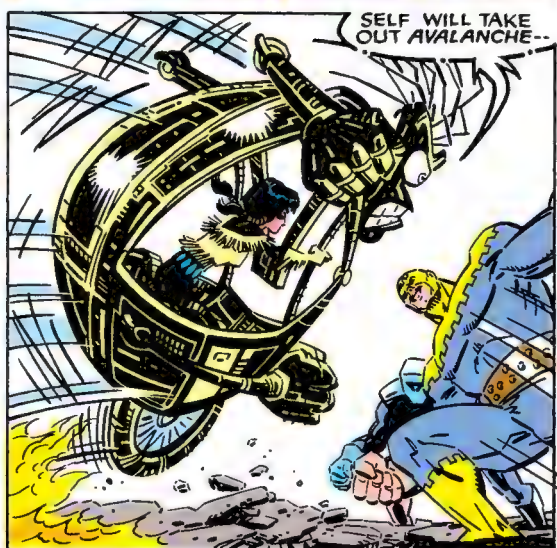
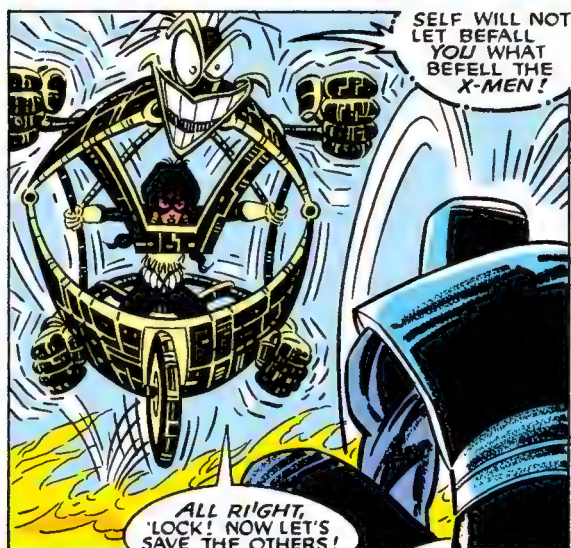
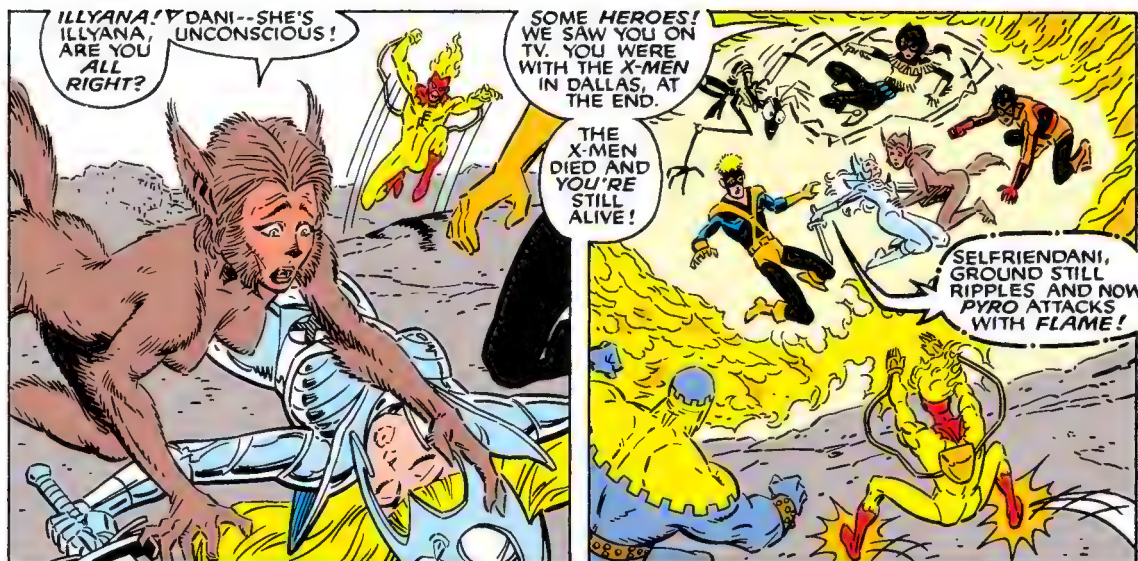


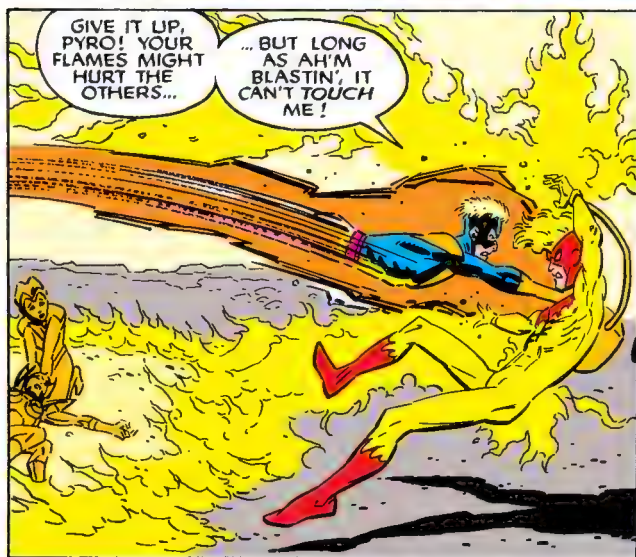
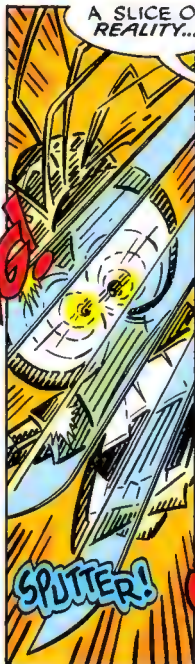
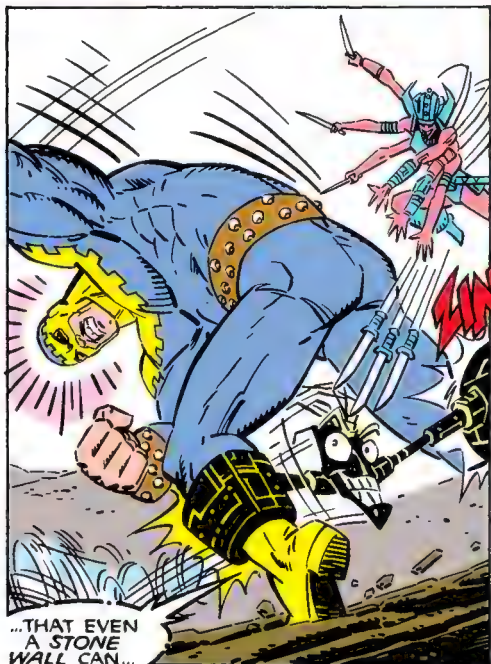
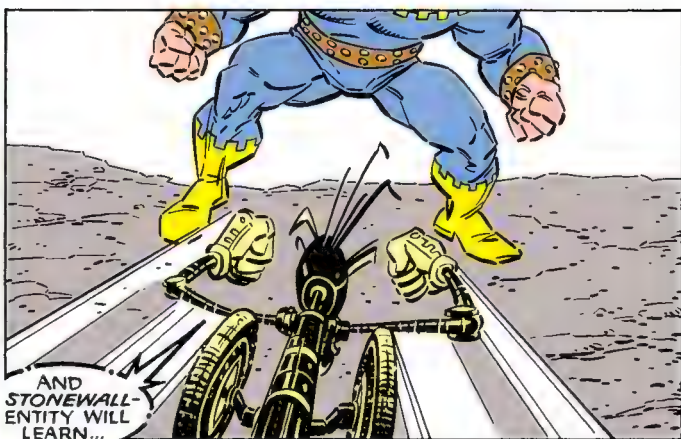


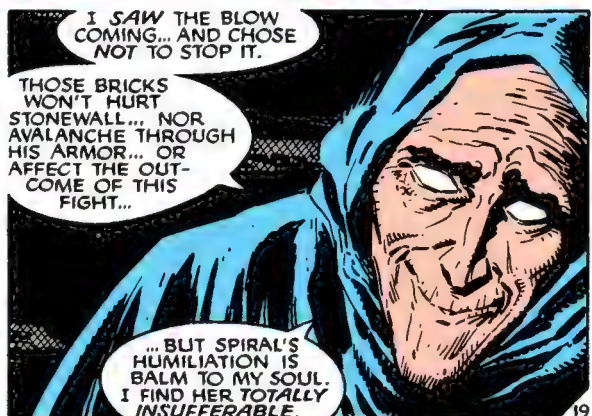
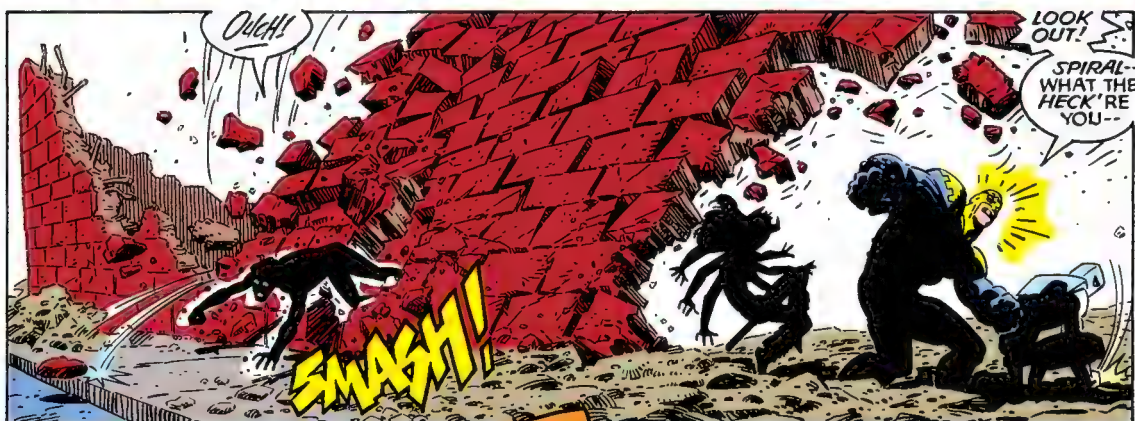
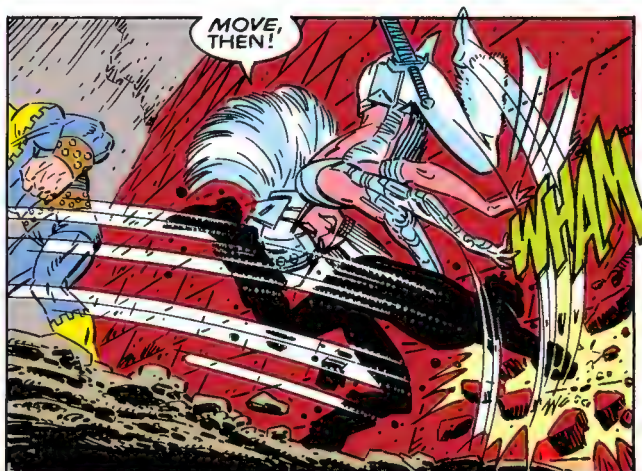
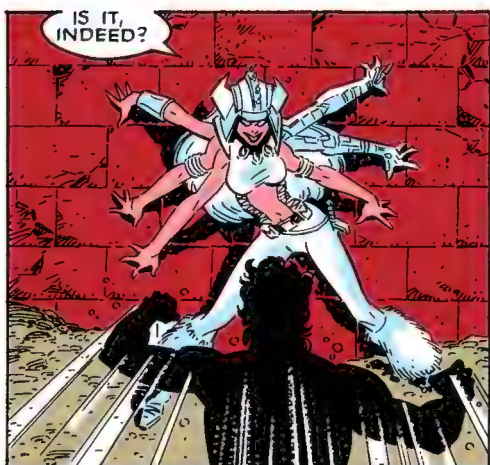
AND YET, ONE THING IS CLEAR.
SHE WILL BRING *DISASTER*
FOR OUR WORLD...

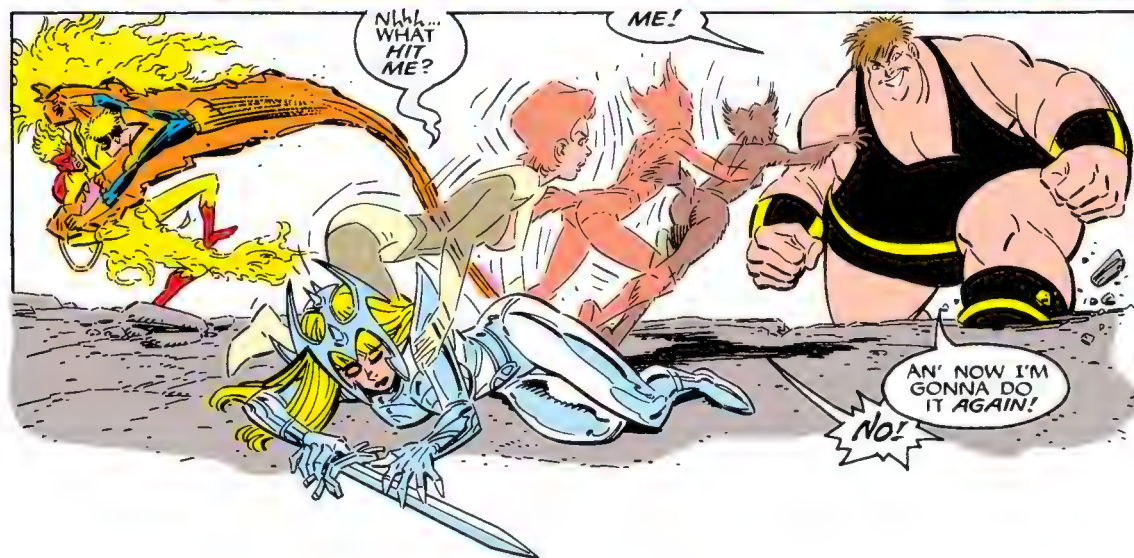
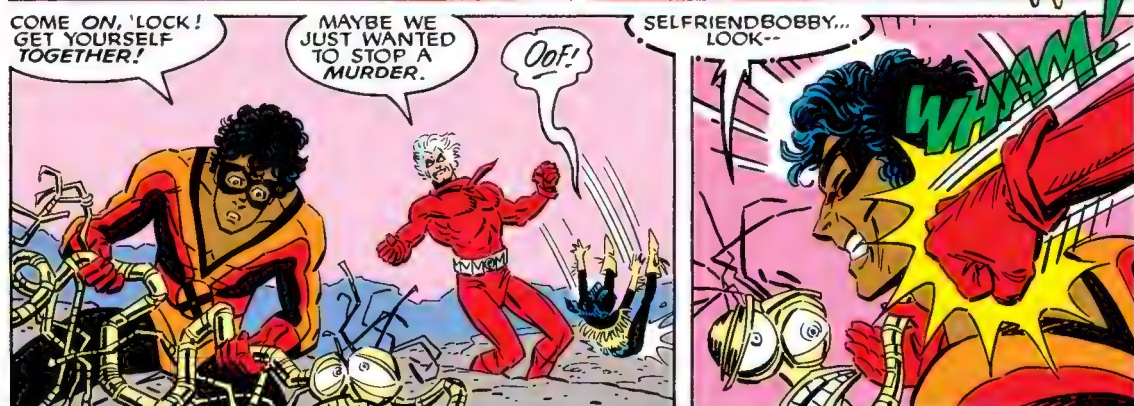
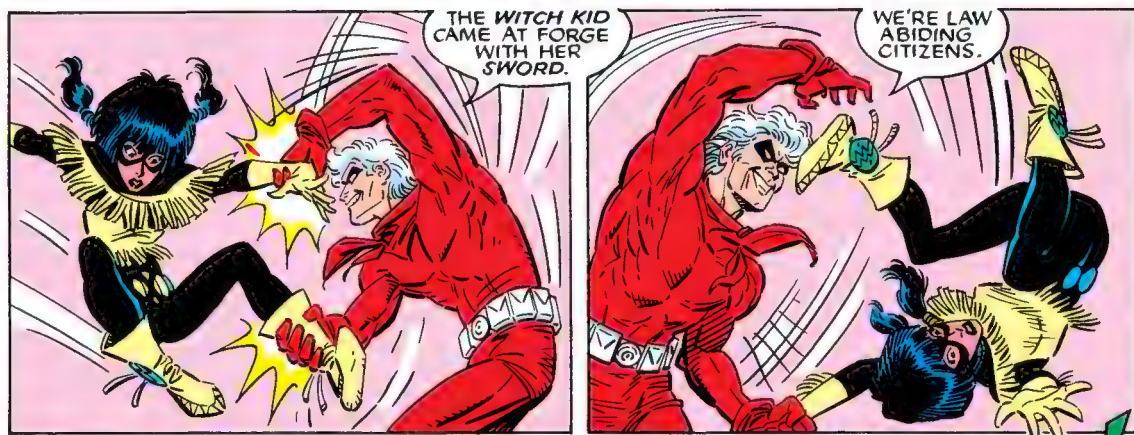
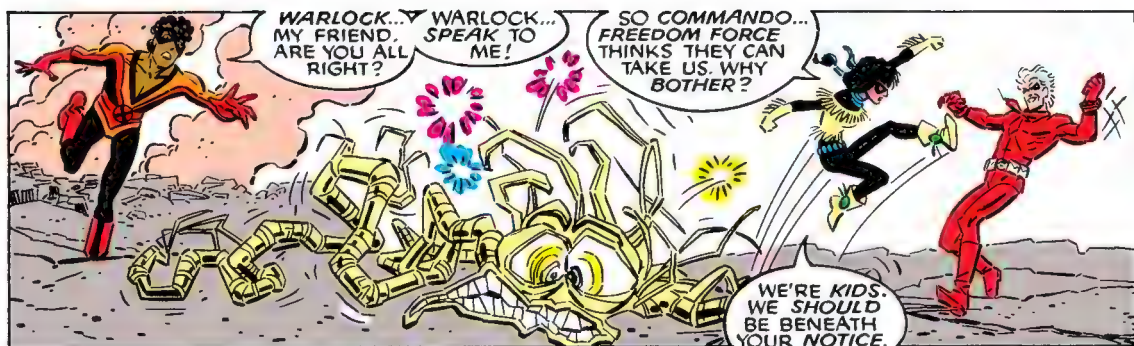




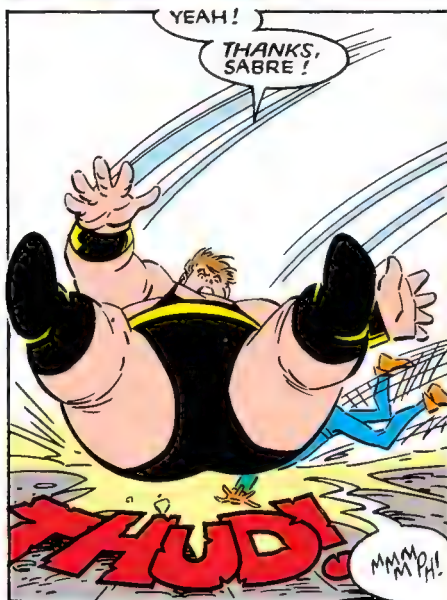
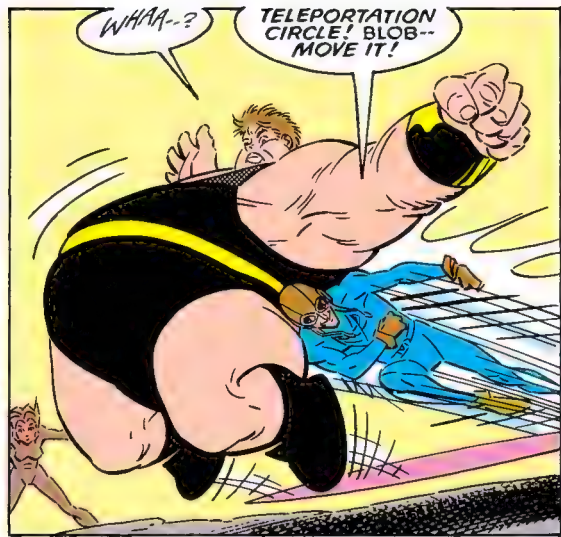
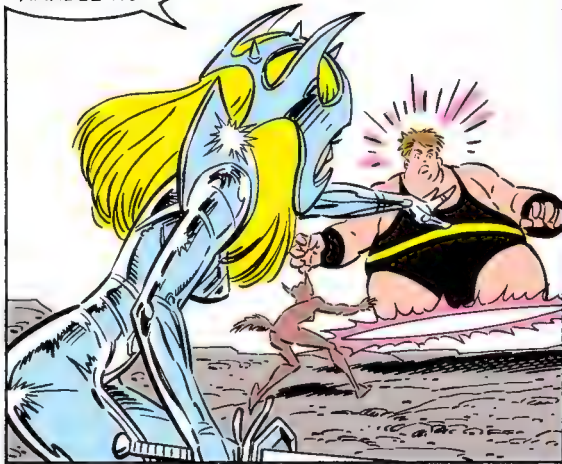








RAHNE-- NO!
HE COULD HURT
YOU. LET ME
HANDLE IT!



YEAH!

THANKS,
SABRE!

THUD!

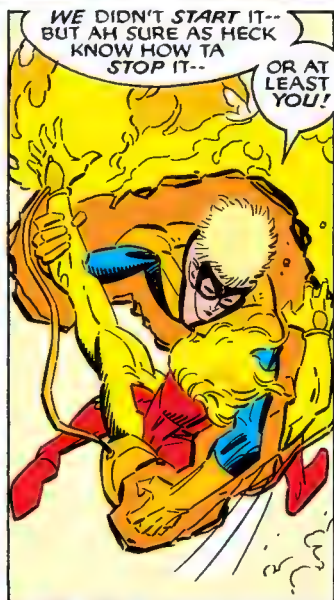
MMMPH!

LOOK, WE
DON'T BLAME
YOU FOR
DEFENDING
FORGE!



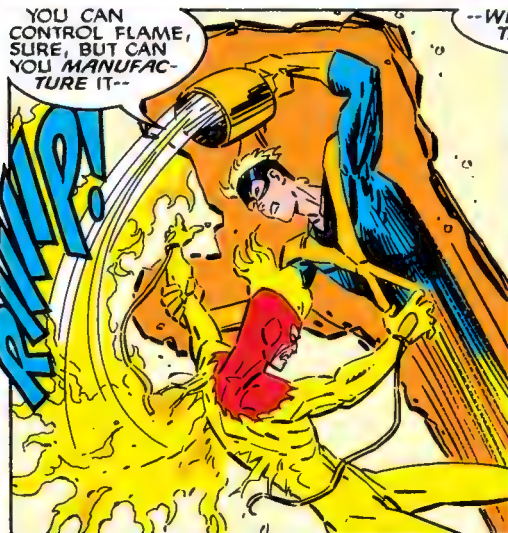
WE'RE NOT
SO HOT ON
MAGIK'S PLAN
OUR-
SELVES!

YOU'RE
NOT, eh?
FANCY THAT!
THEN WHY
FIGHT US?



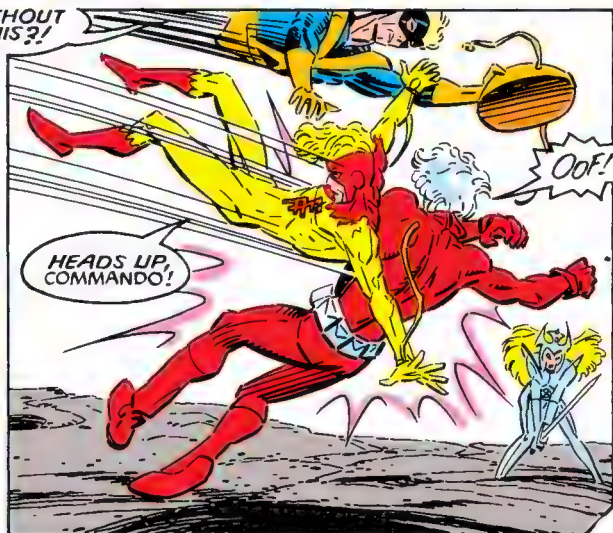
WE DIDN'T START IT--
BUT AH SURE AS HECK
KNOW HOW TA
STOP IT--

OR AT
LEAST
YOU!



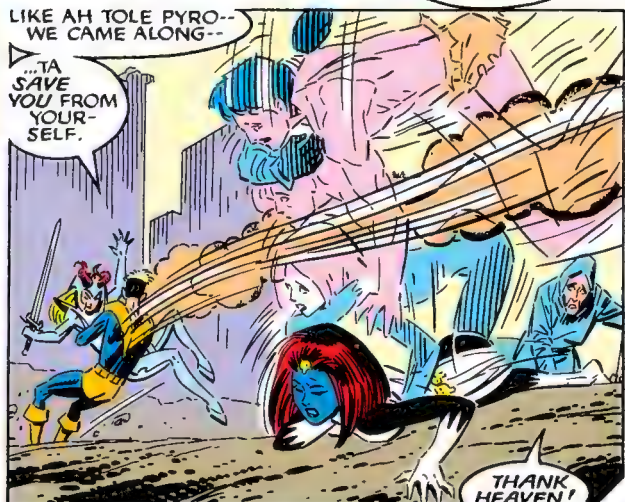
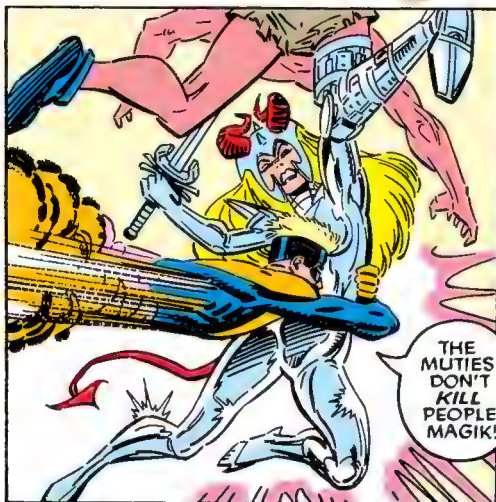
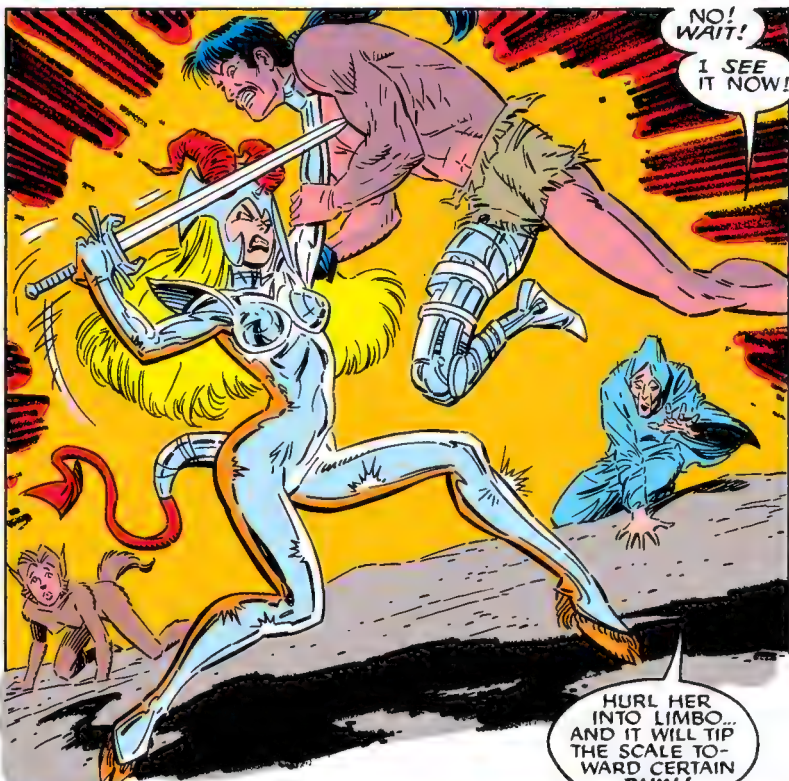
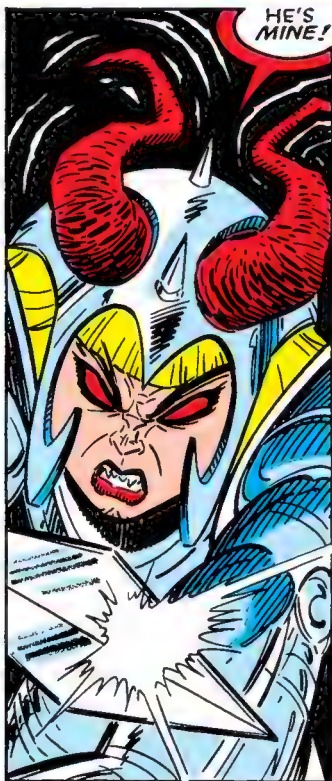
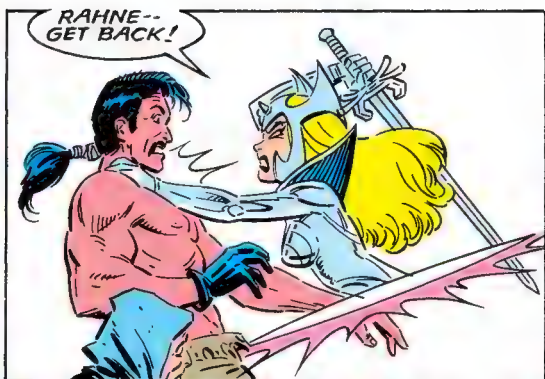
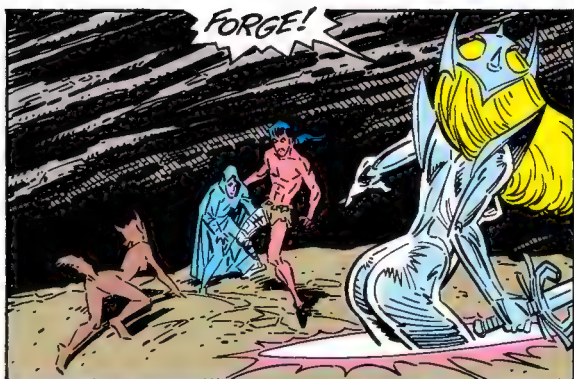
YOU CAN
CONTROL FLAME,
SURE, BUT CAN
YOU MANUFAC-
TURE IT--

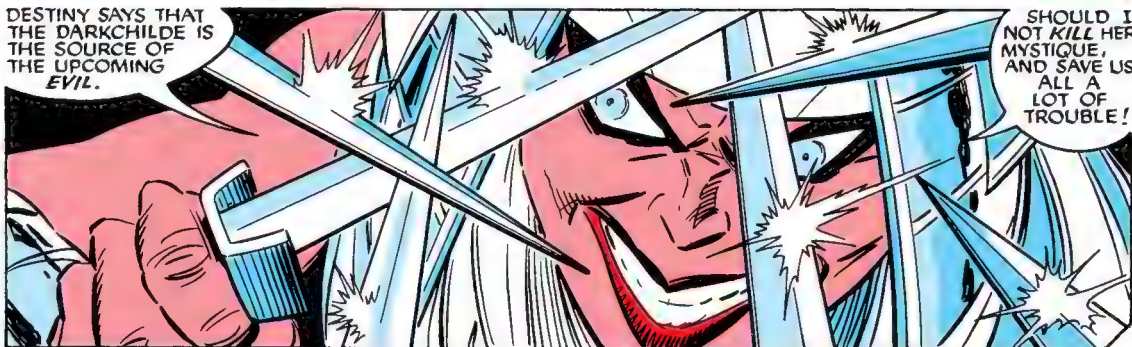
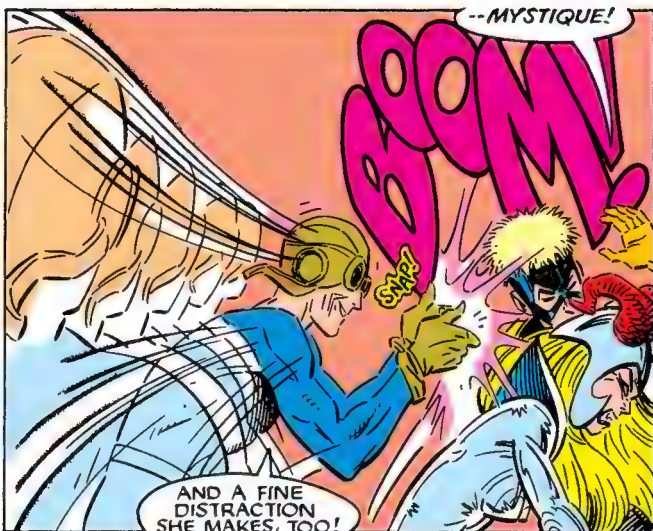
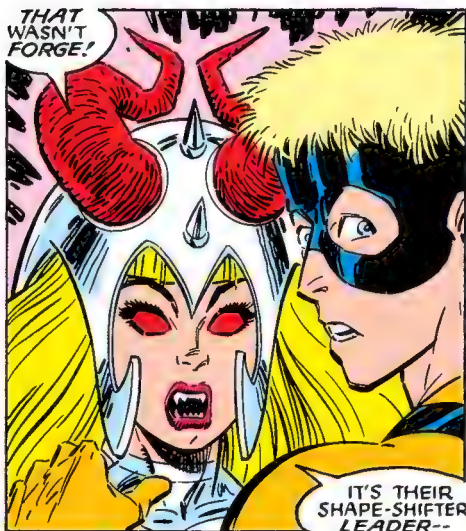
--WITHOUT
THIS?!



HEADS UP,
COMMANDO!

OOF!

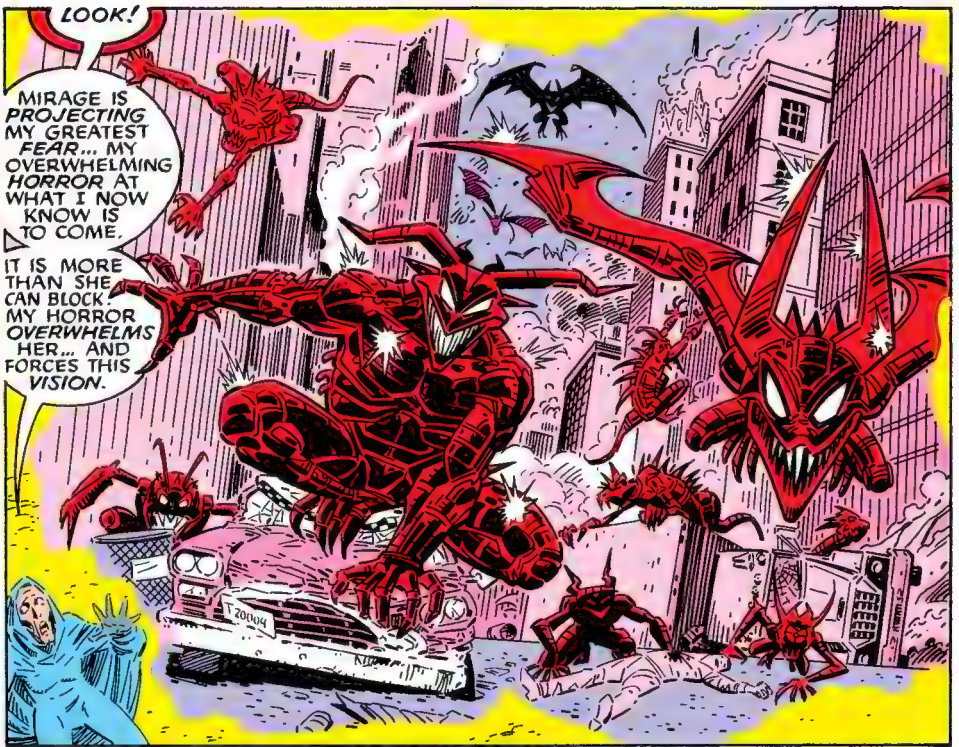






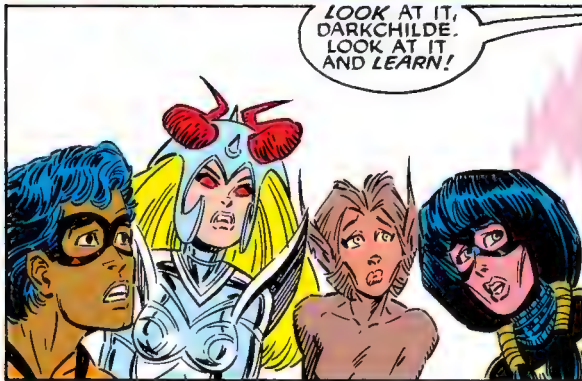
SPIRAL!
NO!

STOP!



LOOK!
MIRAGE IS
PROJECTING
MY GREATEST
FEAR... MY
OVERWHELMING
HORROR AT
WHAT I NOW
KNOW IS
TO COME.

IT IS MORE
THAN SHE
CAN BLOCK.
MY HORROR
OVERWHELMS
HER... AND
FORCES THIS
VISION.



LOOK AT IT,
DARKCHILDE.
LOOK AT IT,
AND LEARN!



THAT...
THE THING
I COULDN'T
SEE... HAS
ALREADY
BEGUN.



THE DARKCHILDE
WILL BRING... HAS
ALREADY BROUGHT...
BY HER WILLFULNESS,
HER DESIRE FOR
REVENGE...

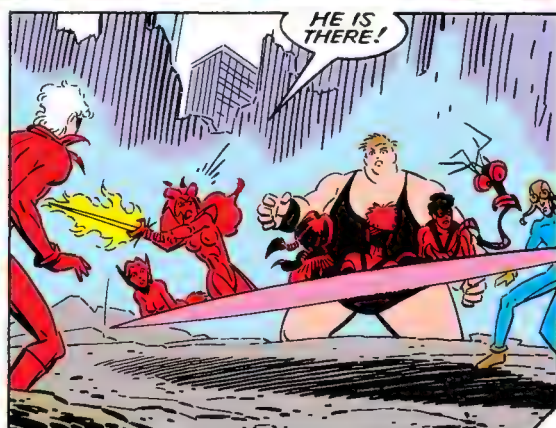
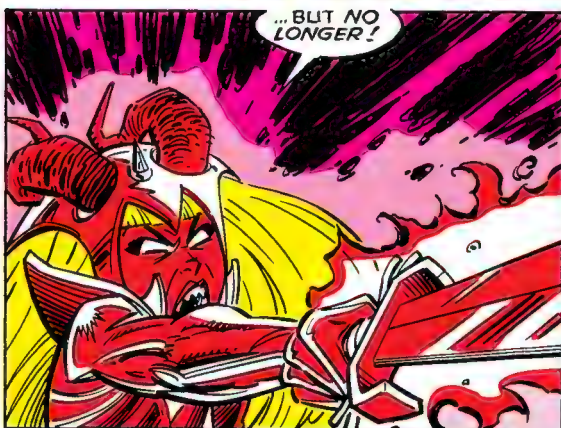
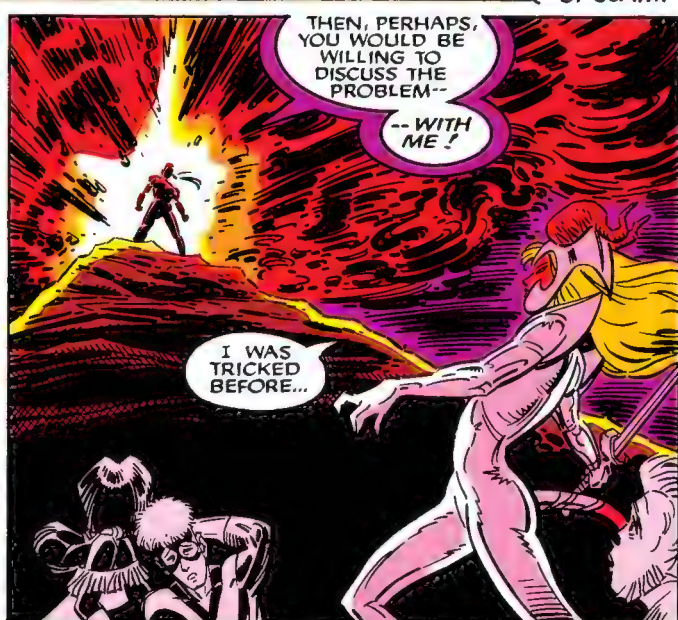
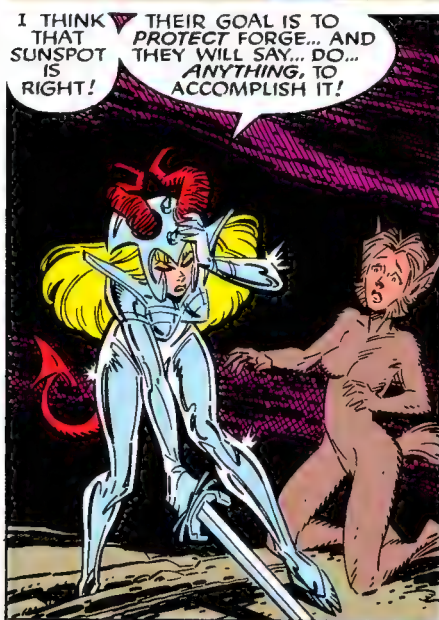
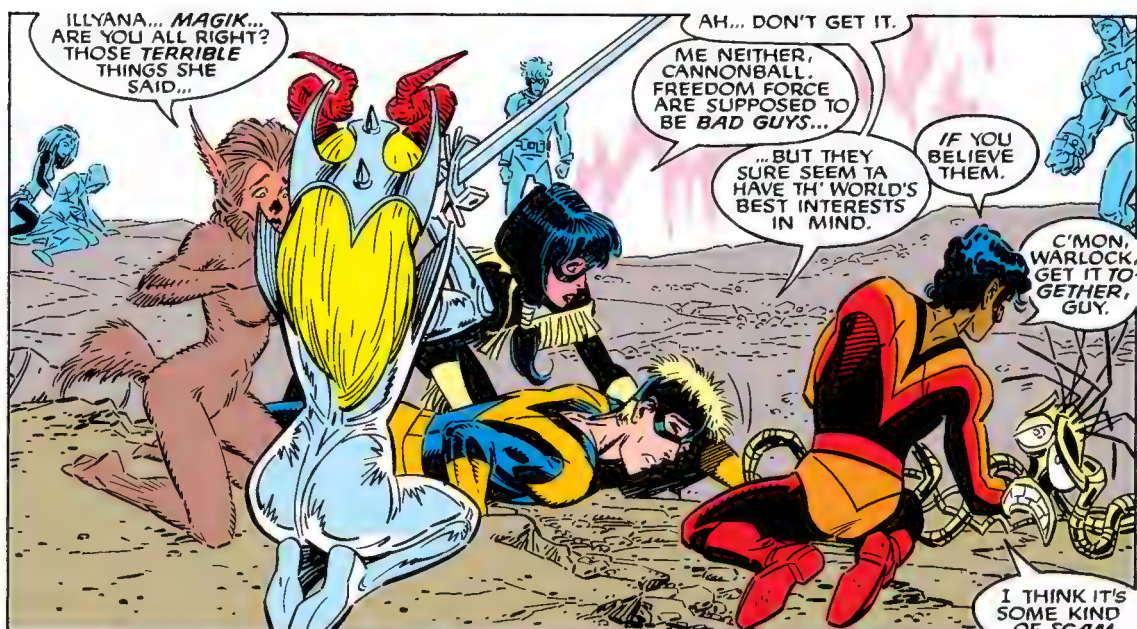


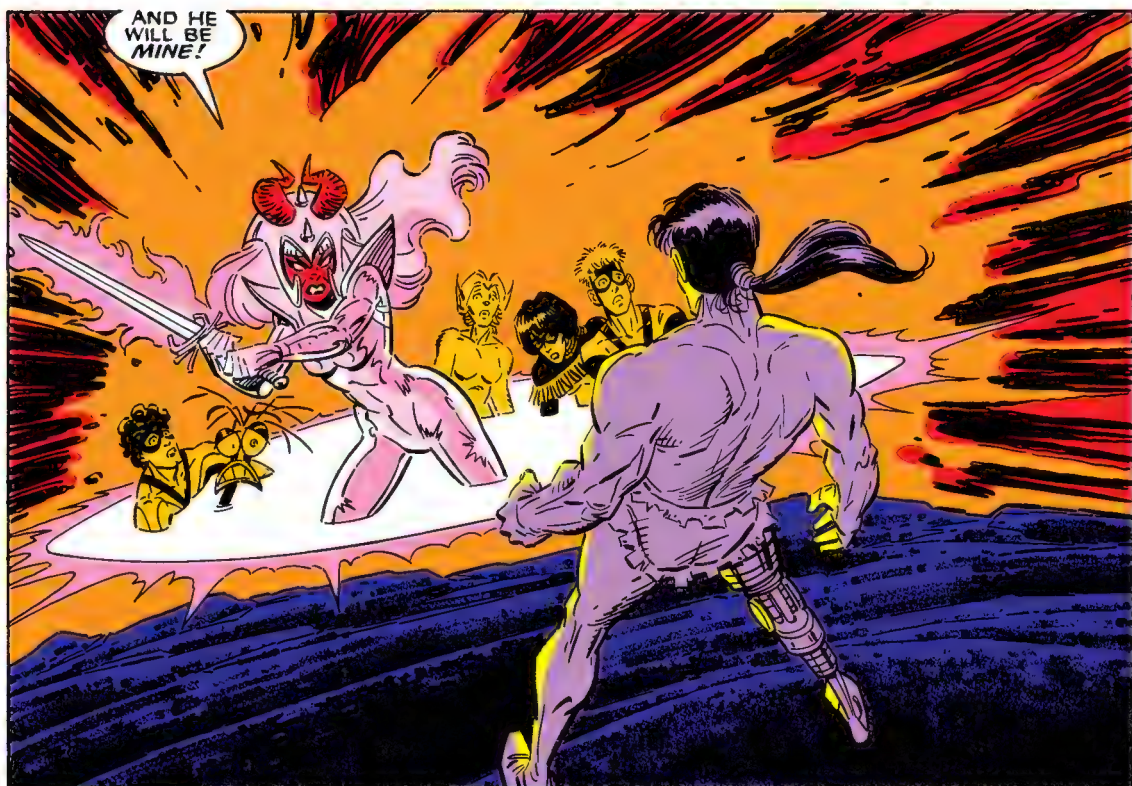
...DISASTER
ON HERSELF...
AND HER
WORLD.

PUT DOWN
YOUR SWORDS,
SPIRAL. HER
DEATH WILL
ONLY HASTEN
THE EVENT!

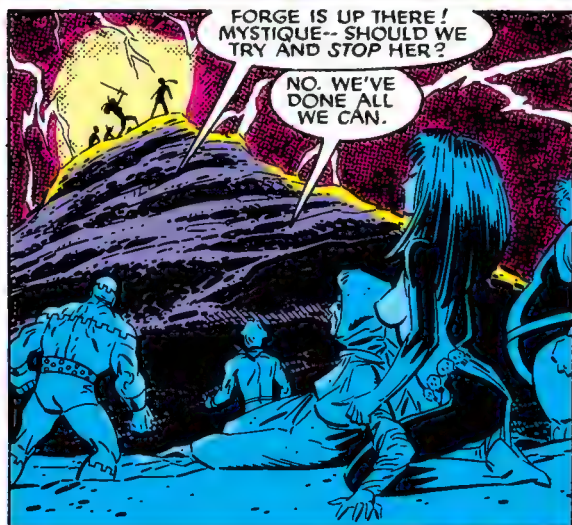


SHE MUST
LEAVE...
SHE MUST
LEARN... OR
THE WORLD
AS WE KNOW
IT WILL NO
LONGER
EXIST!





AND HE
WILL BE
MINE!



FORGE IS UP THERE!
MYSTIQUE-- SHOULD WE
TRY AND STOP HER?

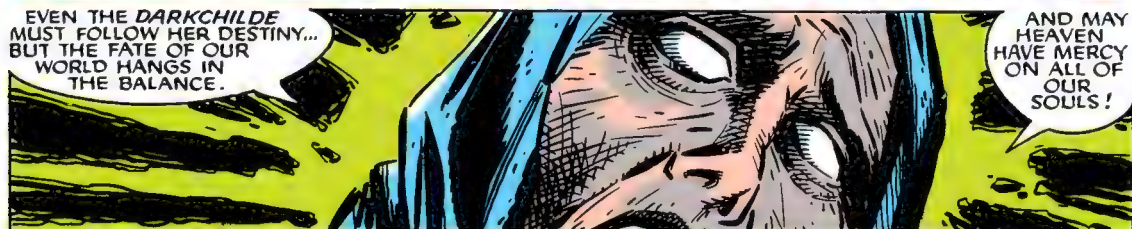
NO. WE'VE
DONE ALL
WE CAN.



LIKE ALL OF
US, THE NEW
MUTANTS MUST
GO WHERE THE
WINDS OF FATE
BLOW THEM.

FREEDOM
FORCE'S PRESENCE
HERE... OUR CON-
FLICT WITH THOSE
CHILDREN... MY
WARNING... HAS
ALREADY MADE A
DIFFERENCE.

I ONLY
HOPE THAT,
LITTLE AS
IT SEEMS, IT
HAS BEEN
ENOUGH.



EVEN THE DARKCHILDE
MUST FOLLOW HER DESTINY...
BUT THE FATE OF OUR
WORLD HANGS IN
THE BALANCE.

AND MAY
HEAVEN
HAVE MERCY
ON ALL OF
OUR
SOULS!

NEXT
ISSUE:

SORCERERS' DUEL!

THE DARKCHILDE vs. FORGE!

WHOEVER
WINS... THE
MUTANTS
LOSE!

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APPROVED
BY THE
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THE NEW MUTANTS



BLEVINS + JUSTIN

Sorcerer's Duel!!



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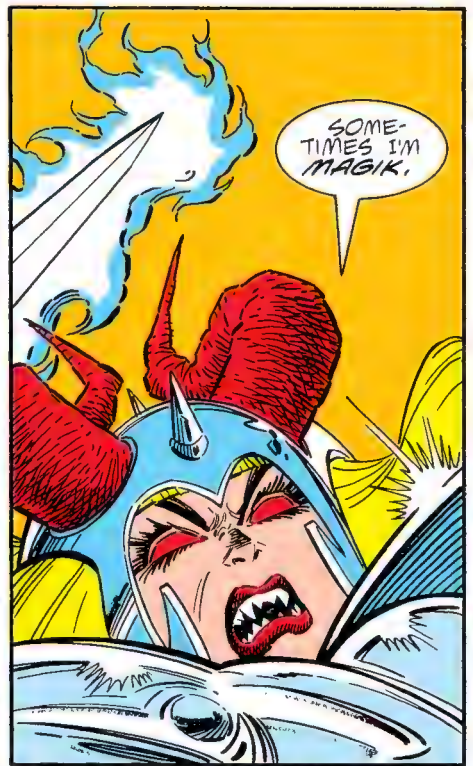
CREATED BY
CHRIS CLAREMONT
& BOB McLEOD



I'VE
KILLED
IN MY TIME--
IN WAR,
THROUGH...
AFFLICTION...

...BUT
NEVER ANYONE
WHO LOOKS
LIKE YOU!

WHO
ARE
YOU--?



SOME-
TIMES I'M
MAGIK.

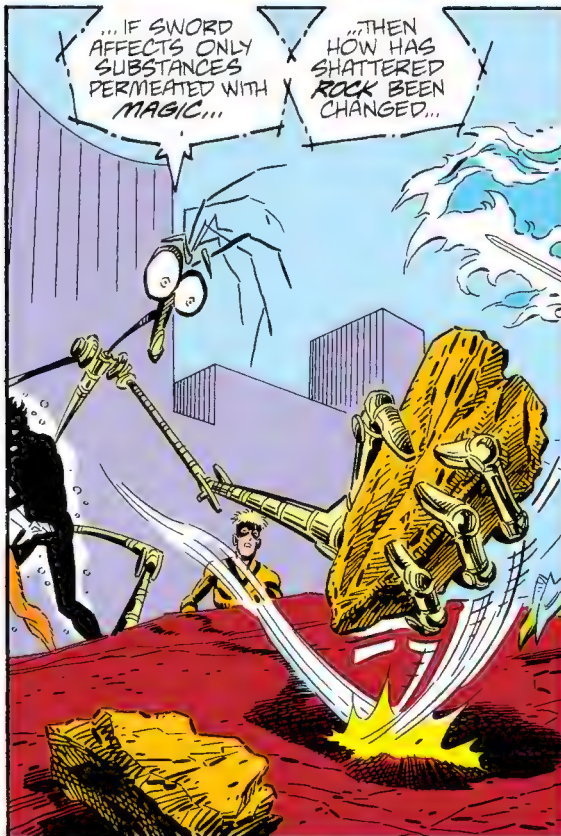
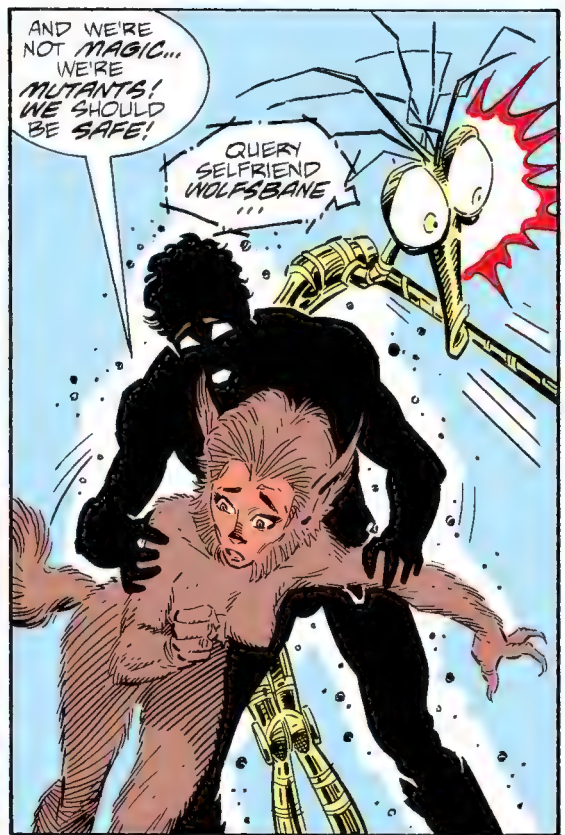


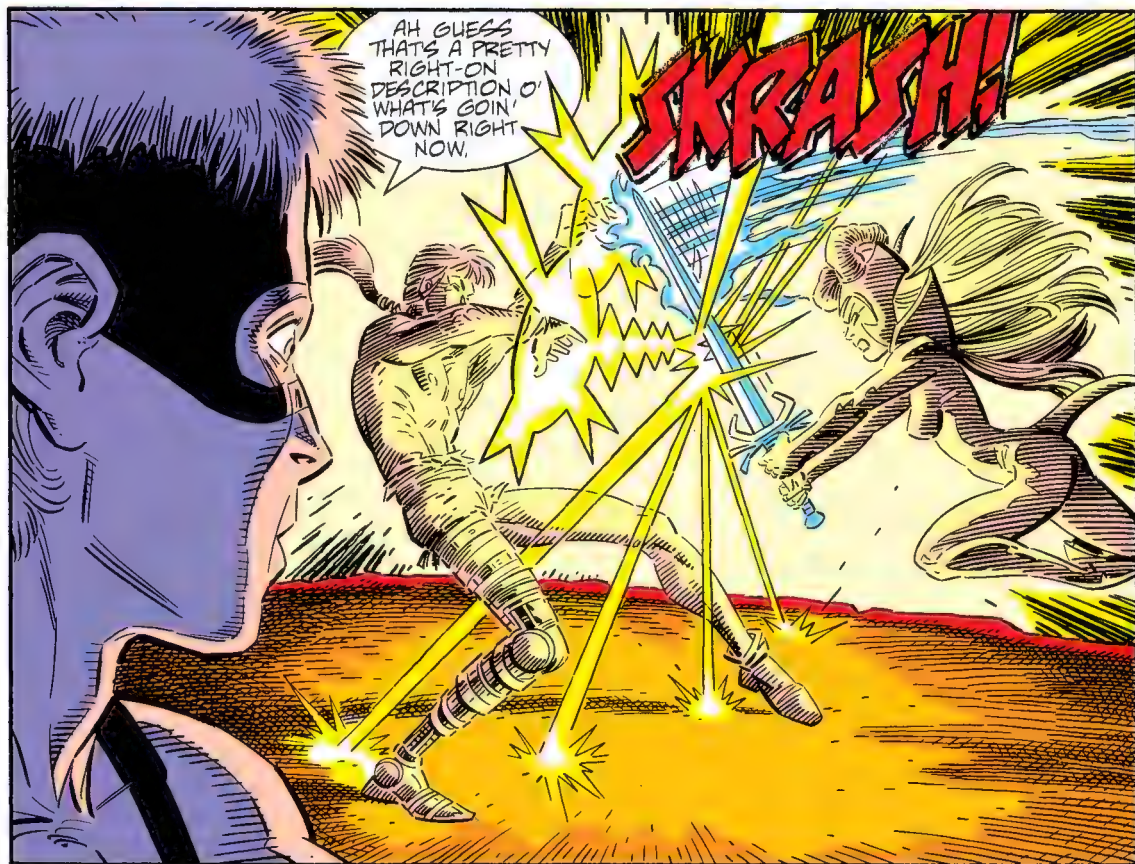
RIGHT
NOW--I'M THE
DARKCHILDE!

YES...
I CAN SEE
THAT.



DON'T PLAY
MR. COOL WITH
ME, FORGE! YOU
KNOW WHAT YOU
DID...!



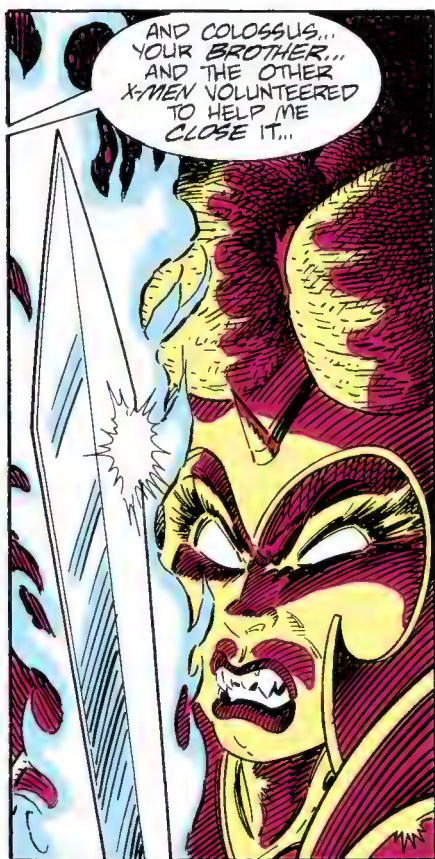




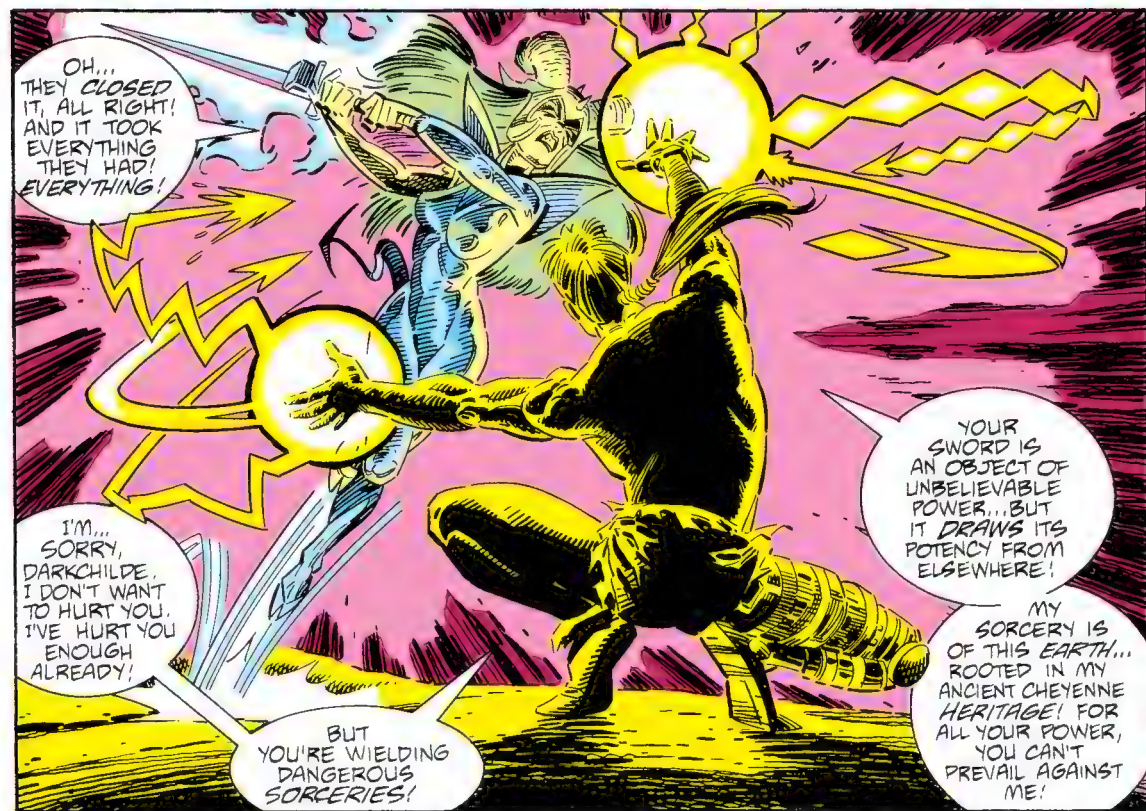
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU...USE MAGIC AGAINST YOU!

TELL ME...WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

MY BROTHER WAS COLOSSUS OF THE X-MEN, YOU TORE A HOLE THROUGH THE DIMENSIONS...



AND COLOSSUS... YOUR BROTHER... AND THE OTHER X-MEN VOLUNTEERED TO HELP ME CLOSE IT...



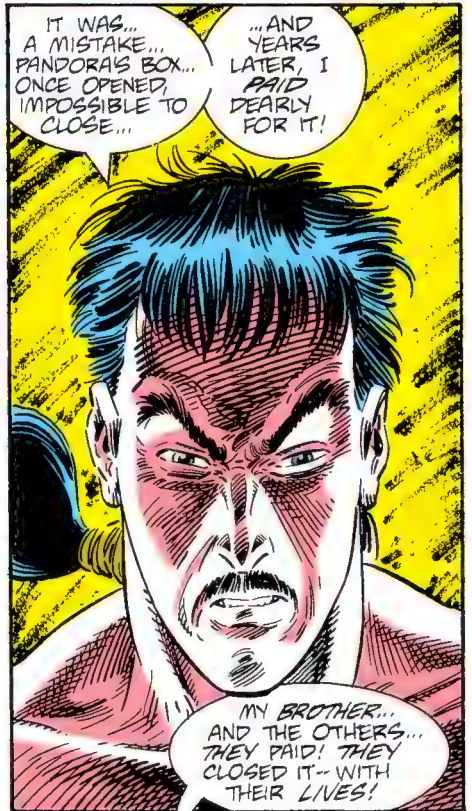
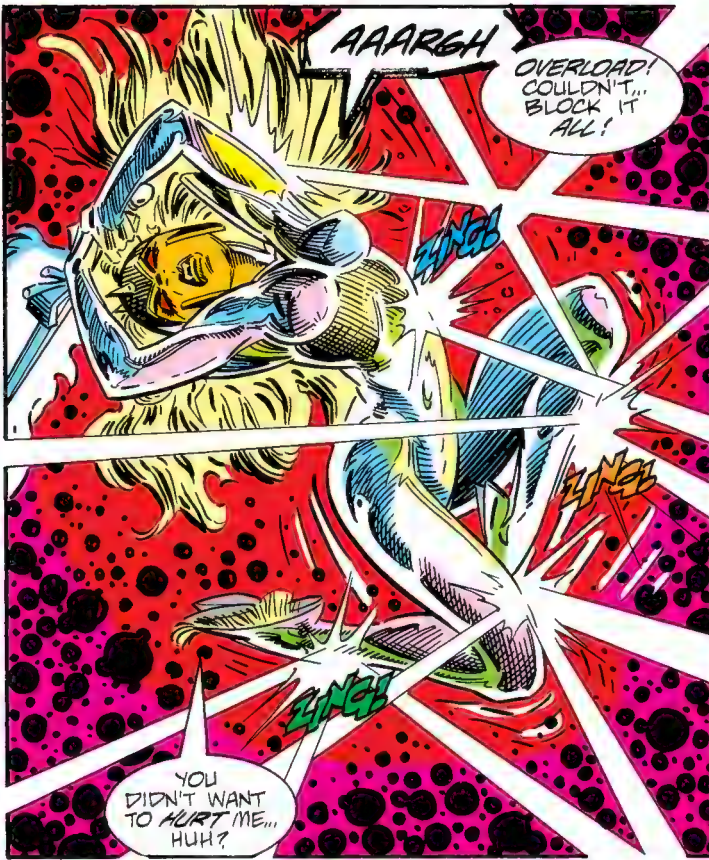
OH... THEY CLOSED IT, ALL RIGHT! AND IT TOOK EVERYTHING THEY HAD! EVERYTHING!

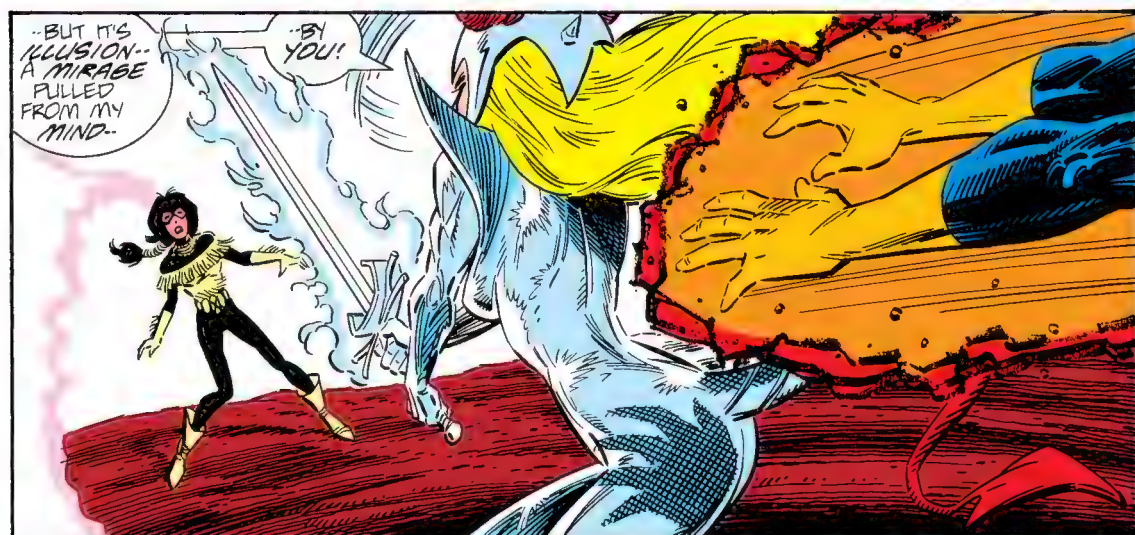
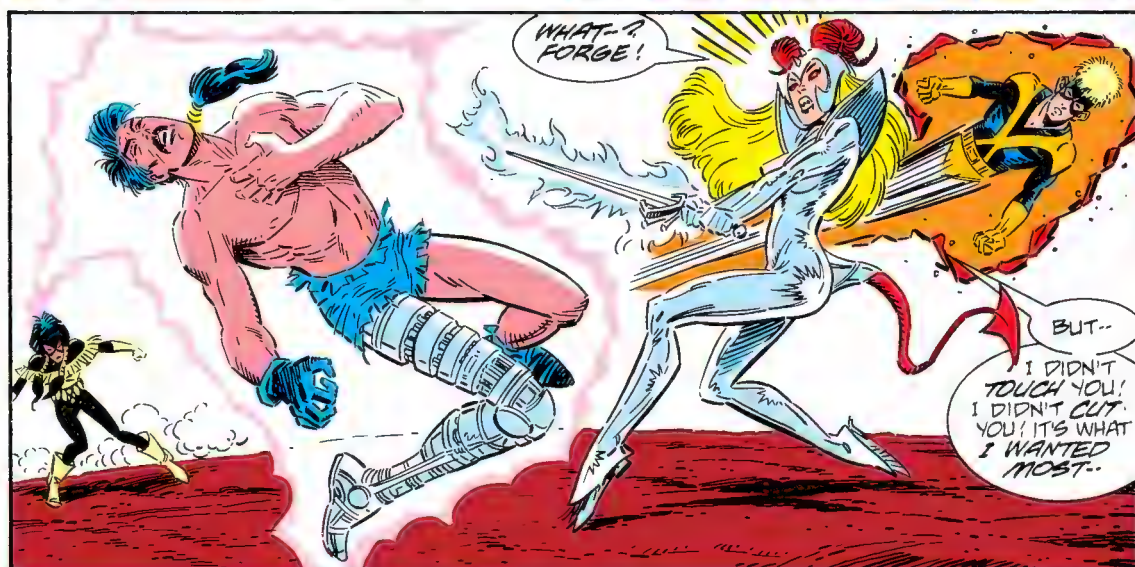
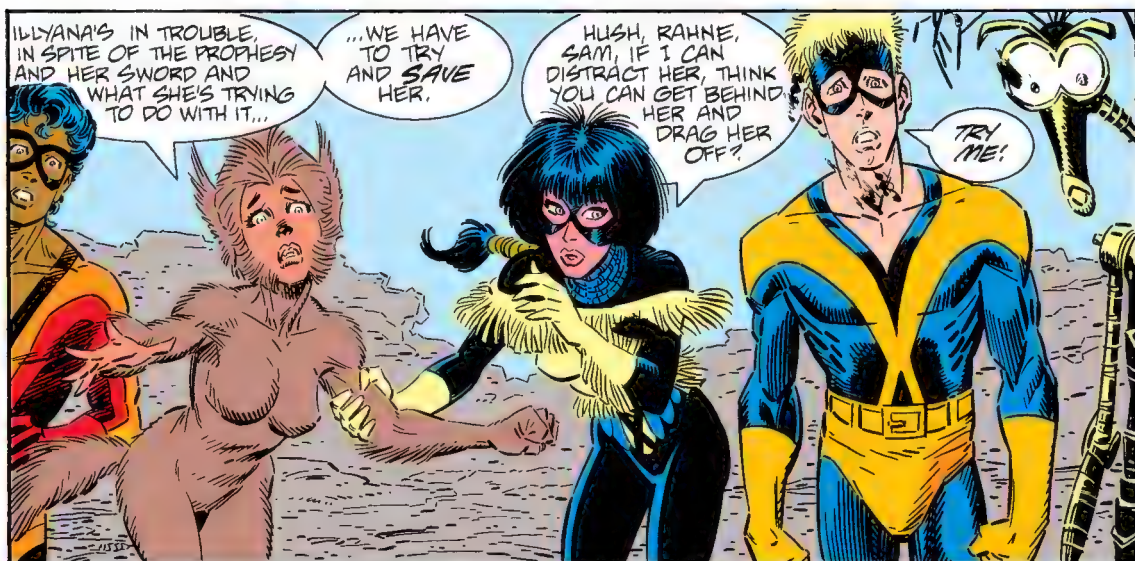
I'M... SORRY, DARKCHILDE. I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU. I'VE HURT YOU ENOUGH ALREADY!

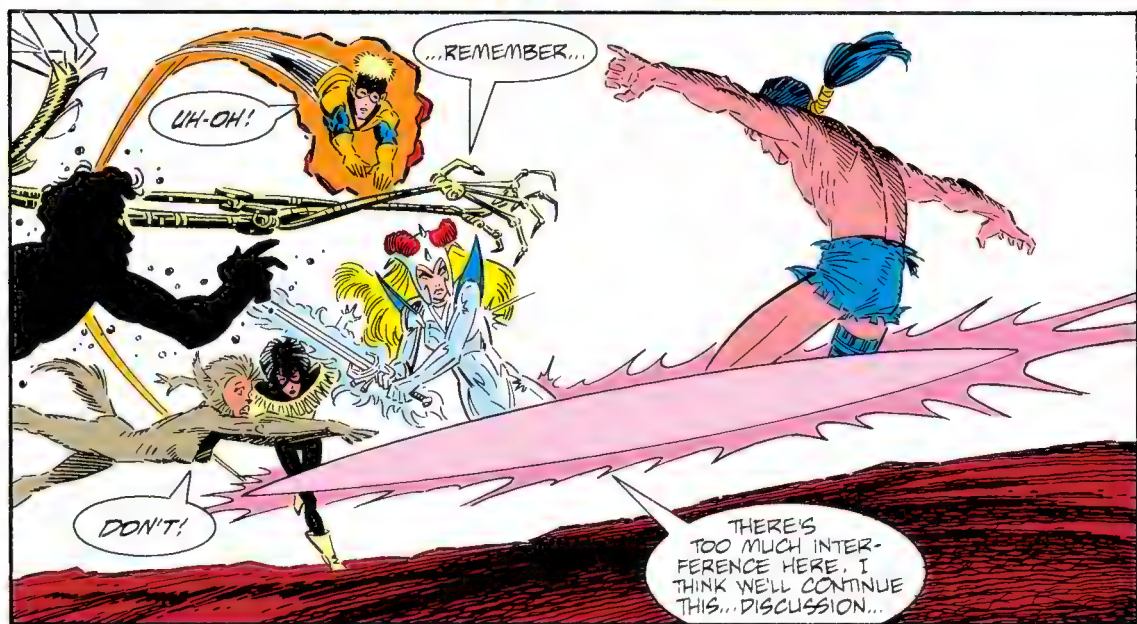
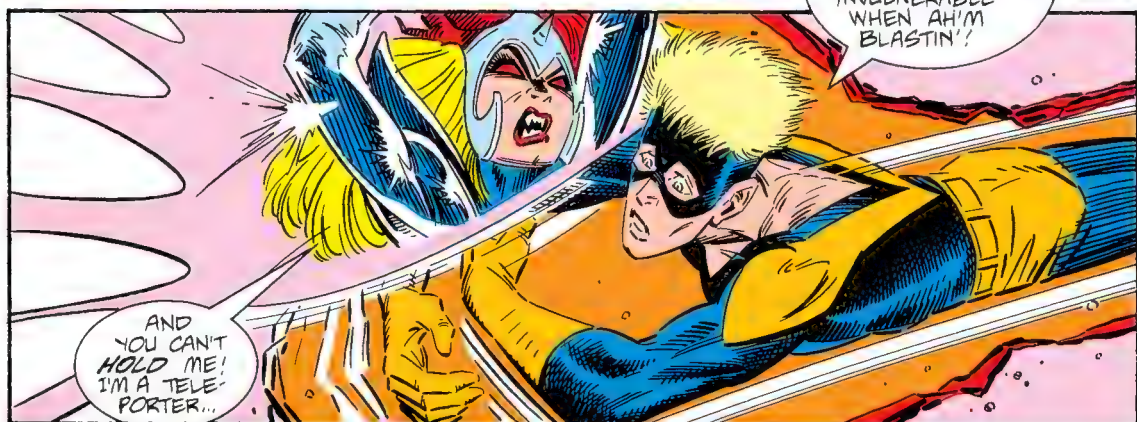
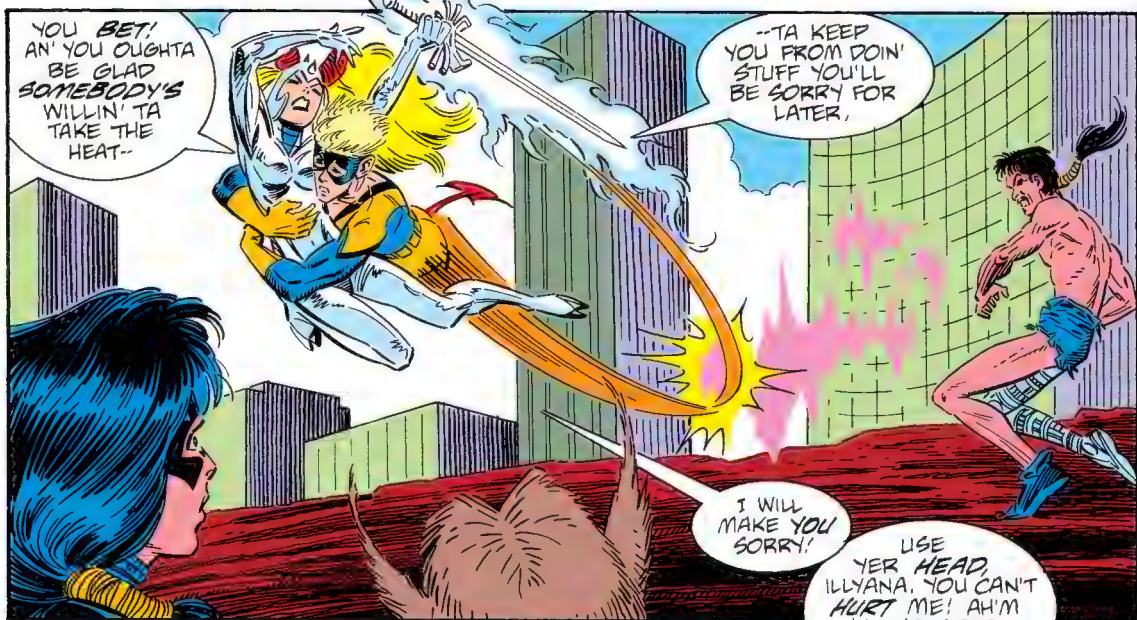
BUT YOU'RE WIELDING DANGEROUS SORCERIES!

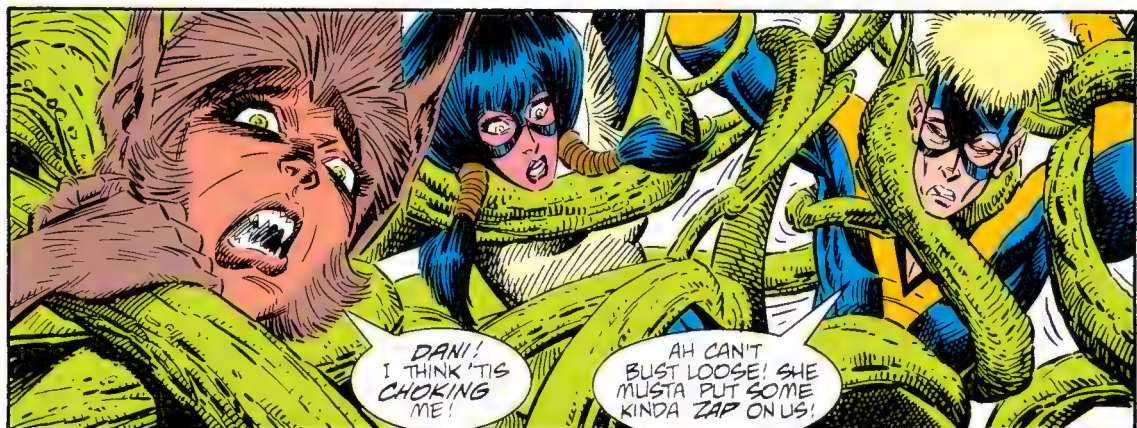
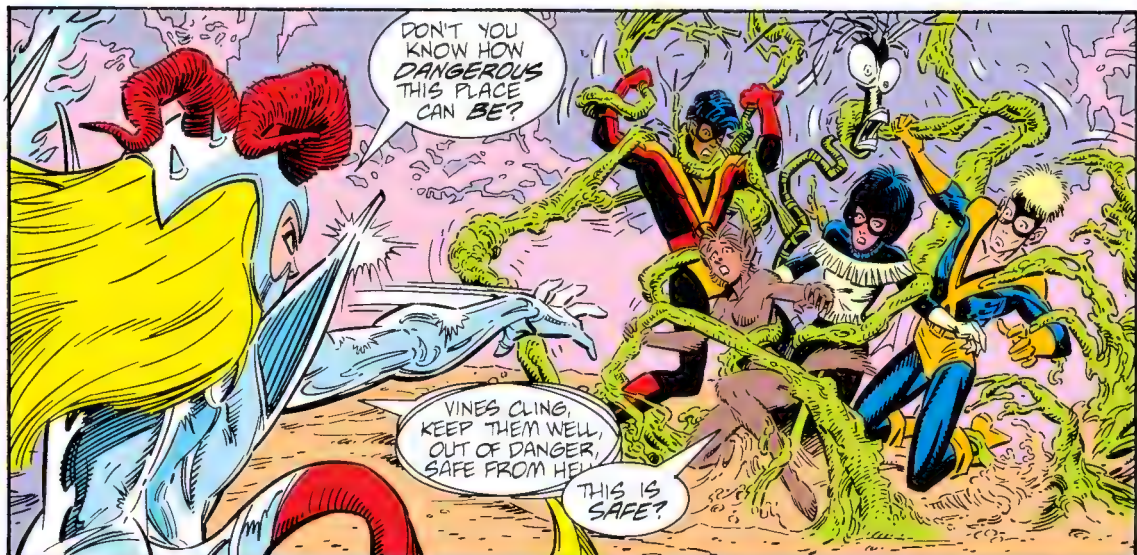
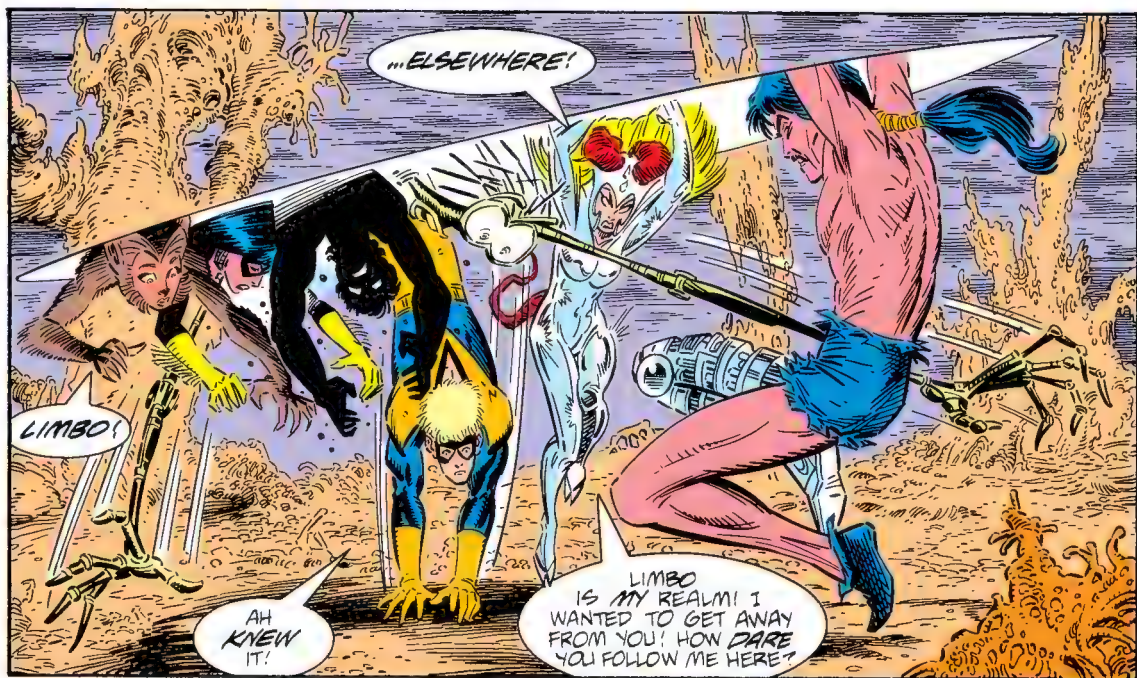
YOUR SWORD IS AN OBJECT OF UNBELIEVABLE POWER...BUT IT DRAWS ITS POTENCY FROM ELSEWHERE!

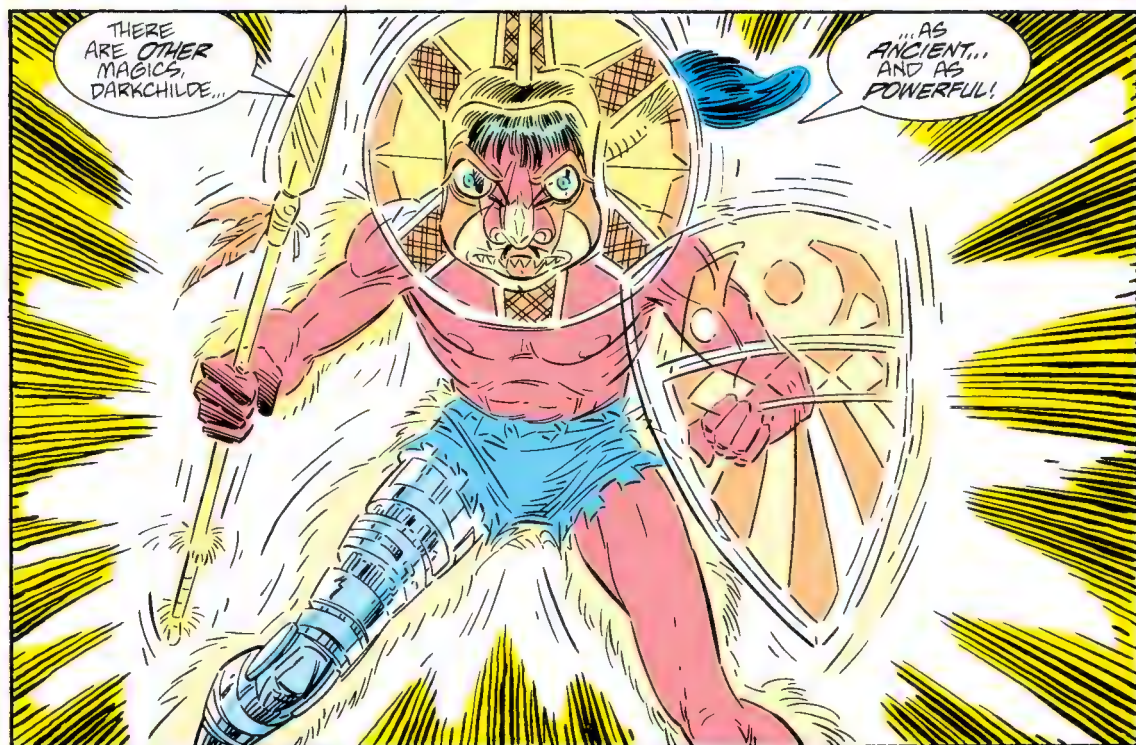
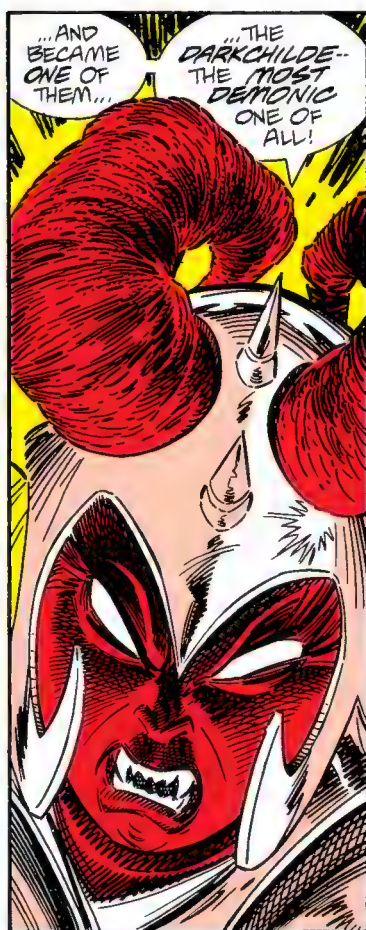
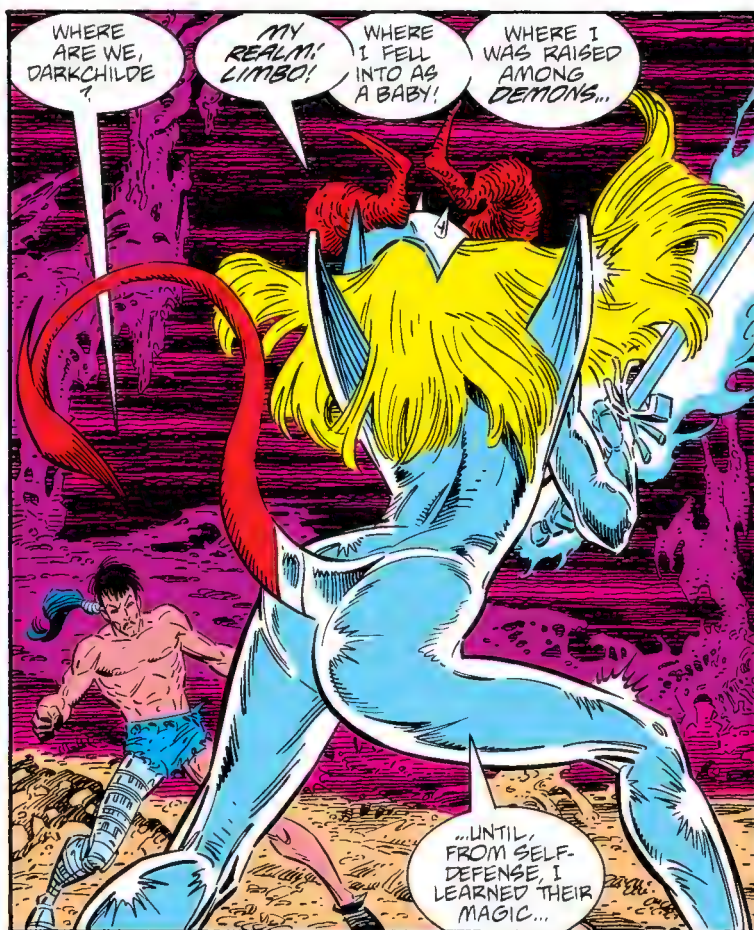
MY SORCERY IS OF THIS EARTH... ROOTED IN MY ANCIENT CHEYENNE HERITAGE! FOR ALL YOUR POWER, YOU CAN'T PREVAIL AGAINST ME!

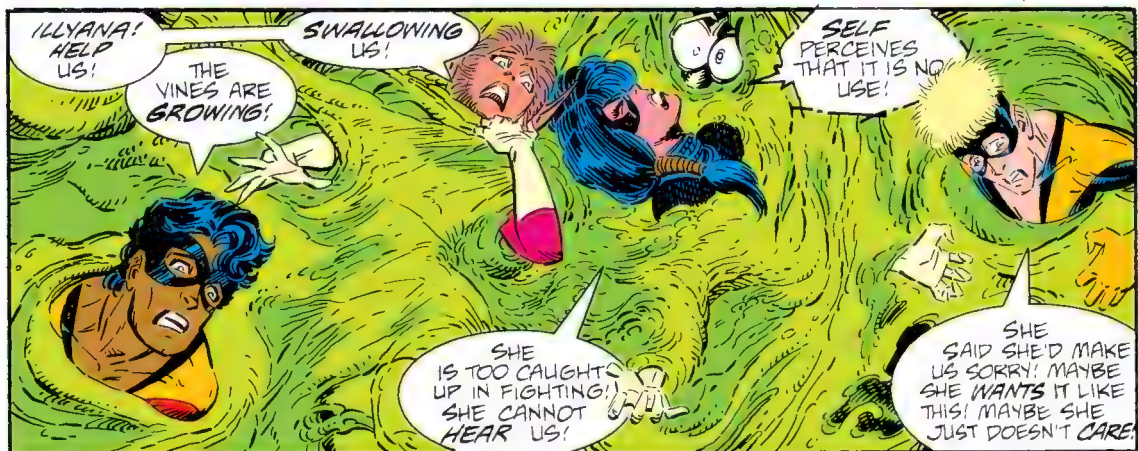
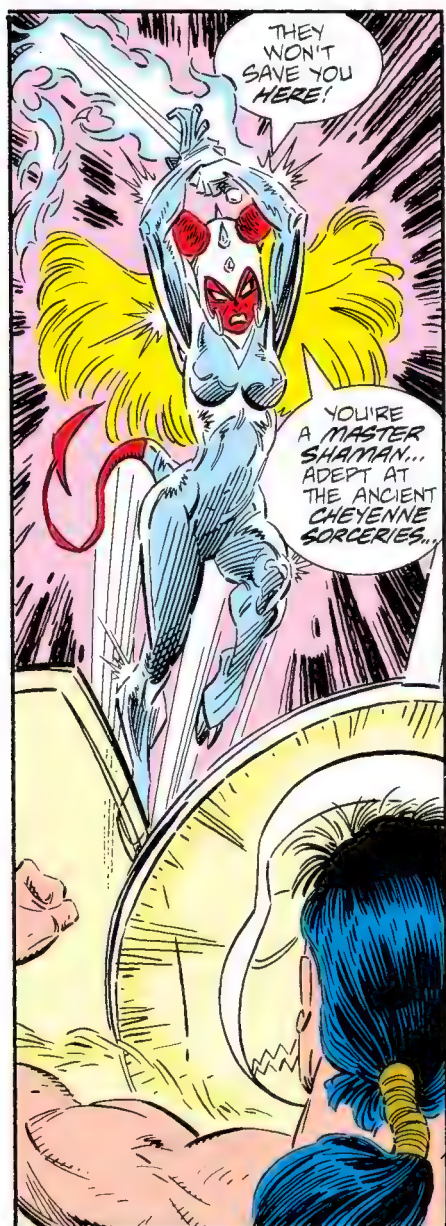


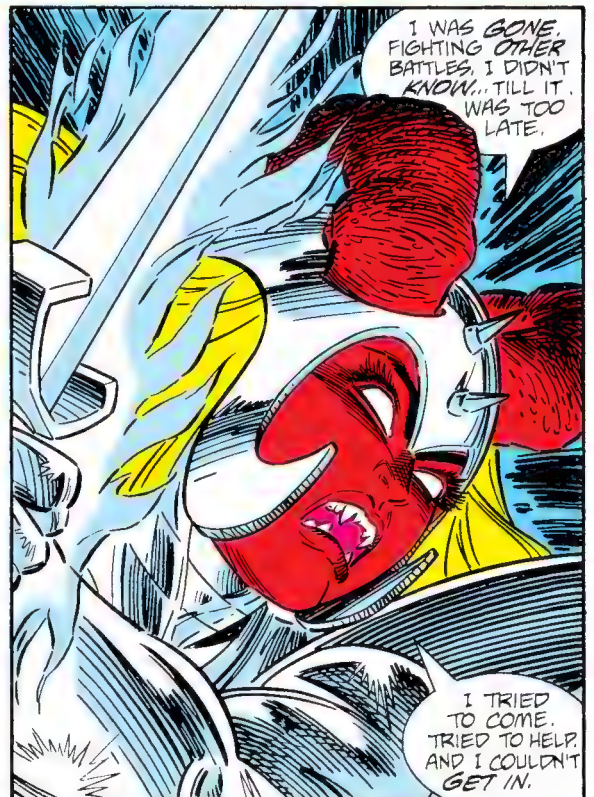
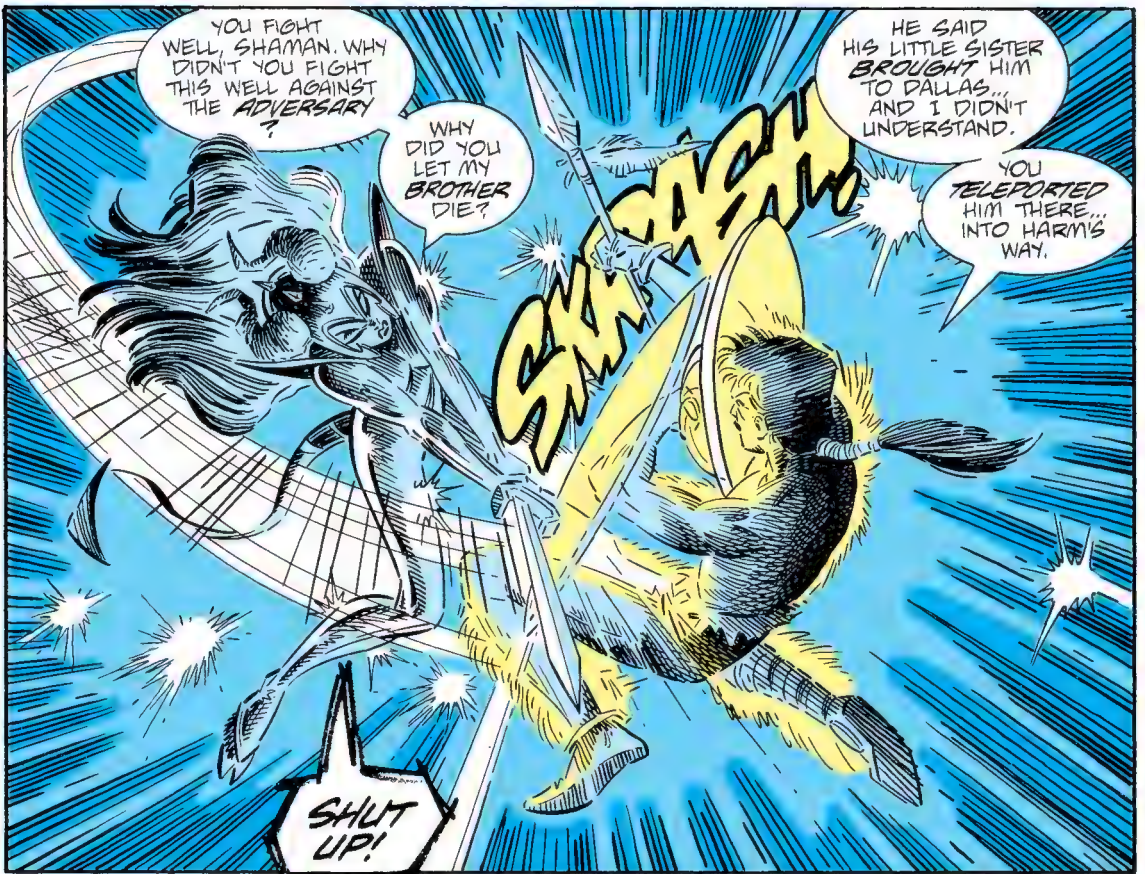


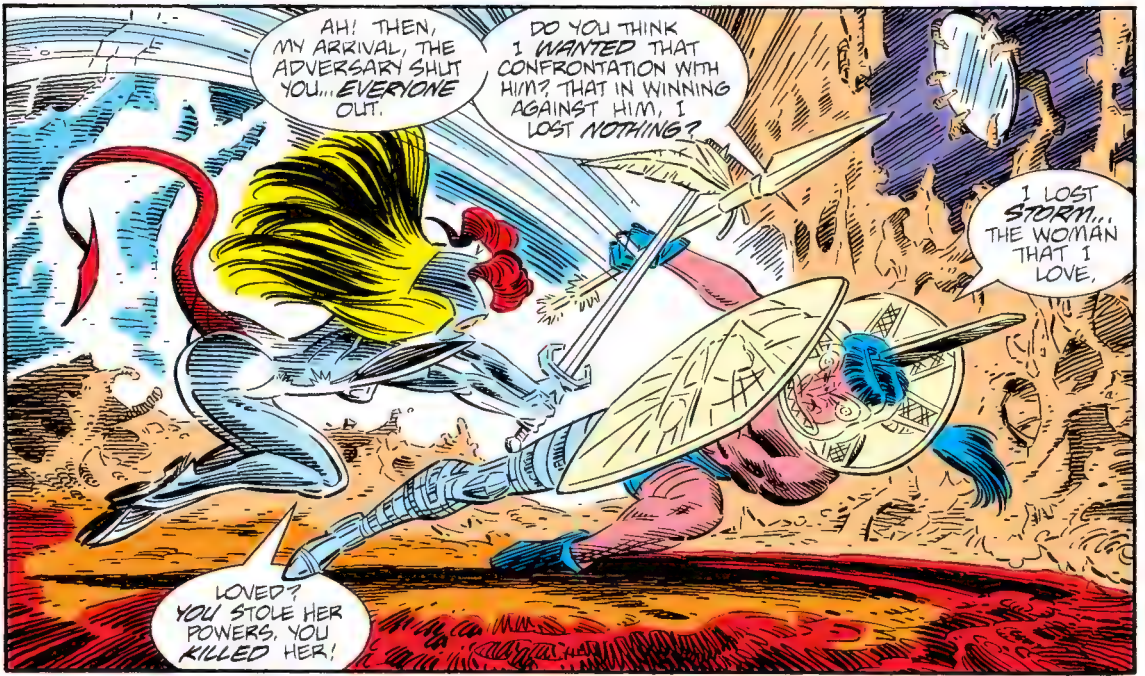














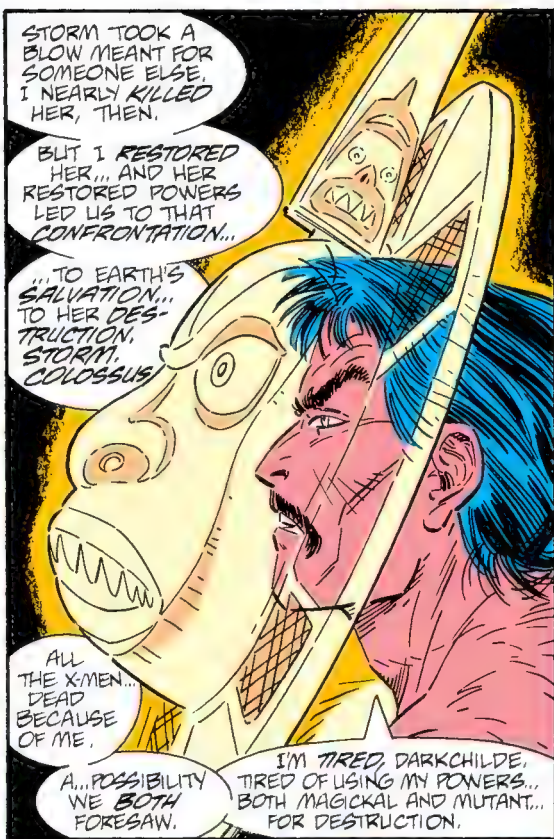
...LOST...! AND THE DARKNESS GROWS...AND BEGINS TO TAKE ON LIFE OF ITS OWN!

A RICOCHET OF POWER, DARKCHILDE, AN ACCIDENT!

ANOTHER ACCIDENT.

YOU'RE ACCIDENT PRONE, AREN'T YOU, MAGIC MAN? A REAL HARD LUCK CASE.

ACCIDENT PRONE...? PERHAPS I AM.



STORM TOOK A BLOW MEANT FOR SOMEONE ELSE, I NEARLY KILLED HER, THEN.

BUT I RESTORED HER... AND HER RESTORED POWERS LED US TO THAT CONFRONTATION...

...TO EARTH'S SALVATION... TO HER DESTRUCTION, STORM, COLOSSUS!

ALL THE X-MEN... DEAD BECAUSE OF ME.

A...POSSIBILITY WE BOTH FORESAW.

I'M TIRED, DARKCHILDE, TIRED OF USING MY POWERS... BOTH MAGICKAL AND MUTANT... FOR DESTRUCTION.

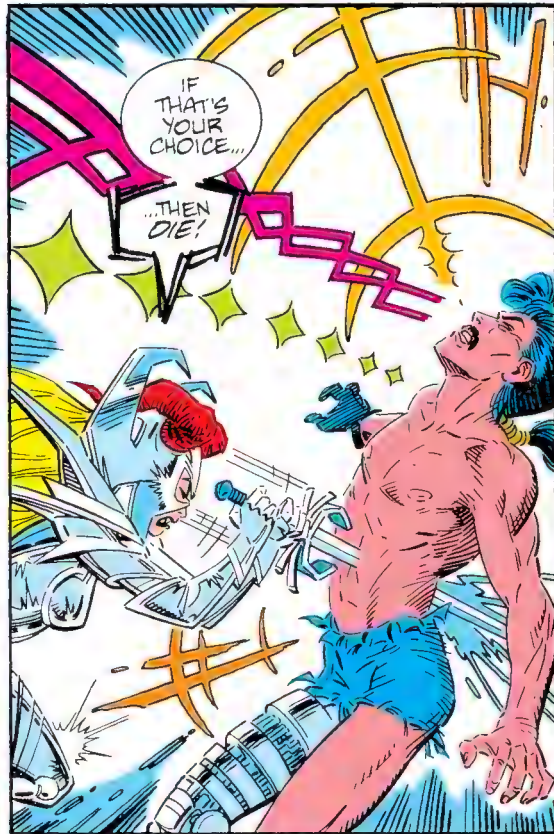


YOU'RE A CHILD...LIKE I WAS, BACK IN 'NAM, WIELDING MAGICKS AS DEADLY...

...DRIVEN BY AS GREAT A RAGE...AS POWERFUL A GRIEF.

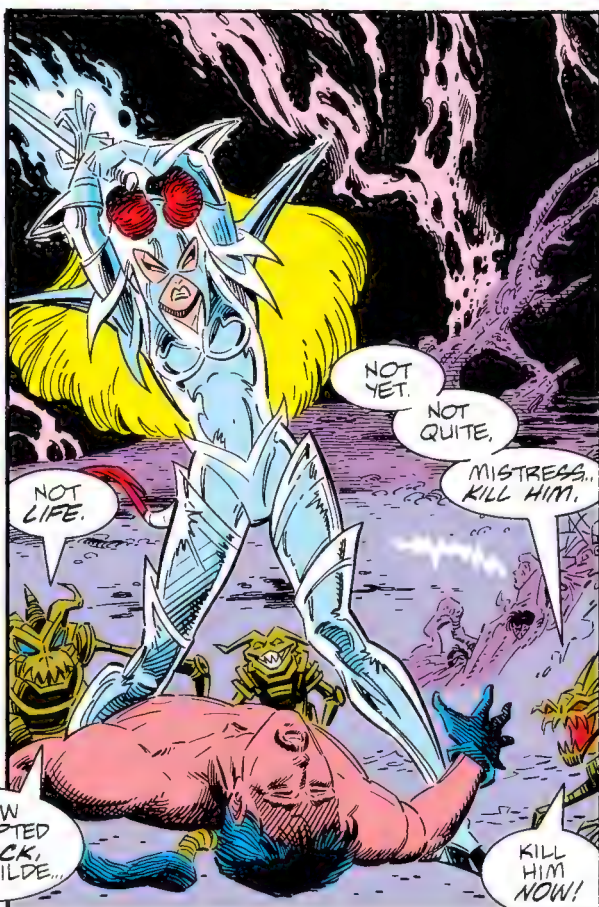
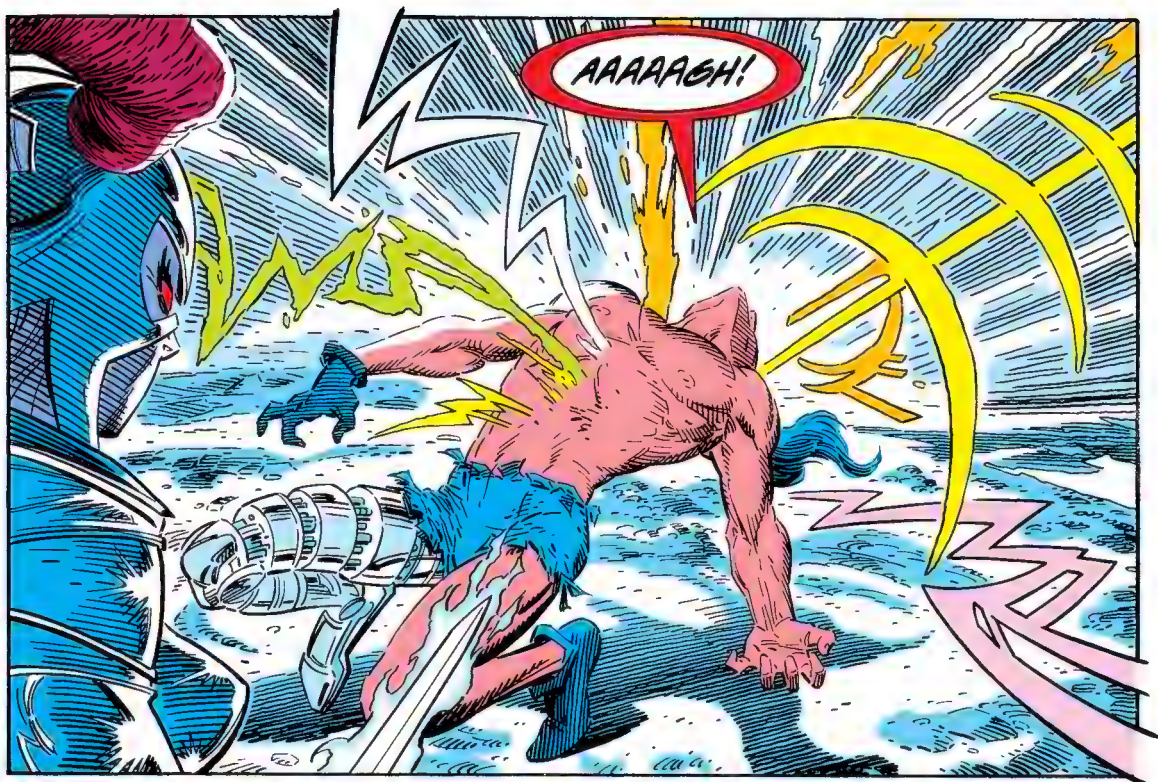
AND IF YOU CHOOSE TO USE YOUR MAGICK IN THIS WAY... HOW HAVE I THE RIGHT TO DESTROY YOU, TOO...IN ORDER TO STOP YOU?

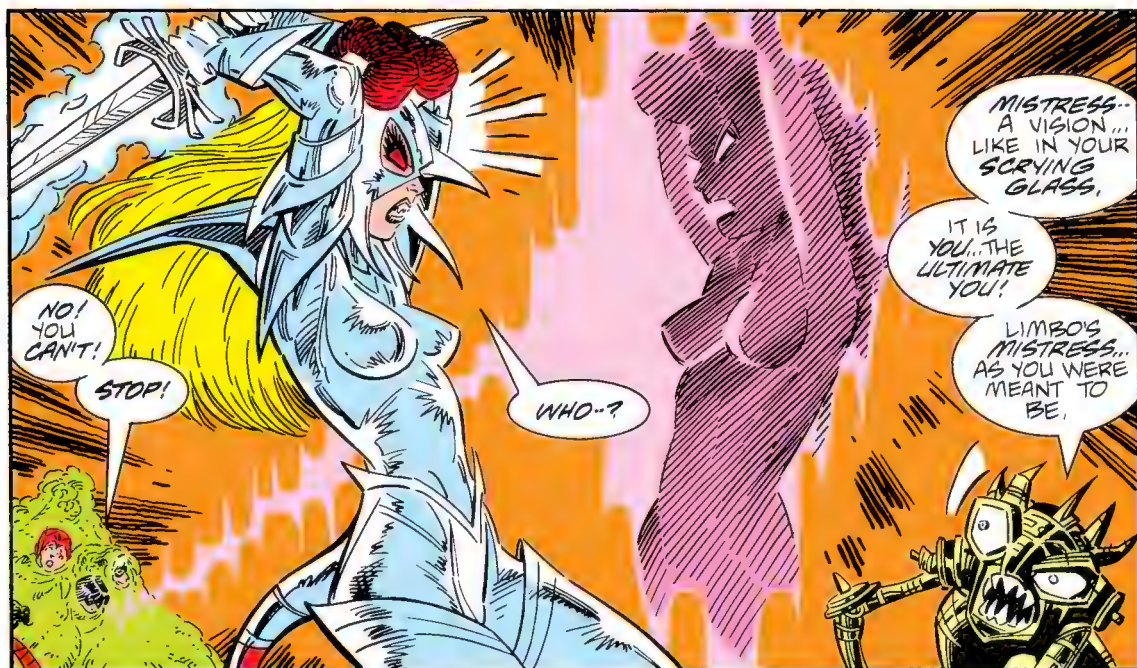
IF THAT'S THE CHOICE, LET ME DIE, INSTEAD.

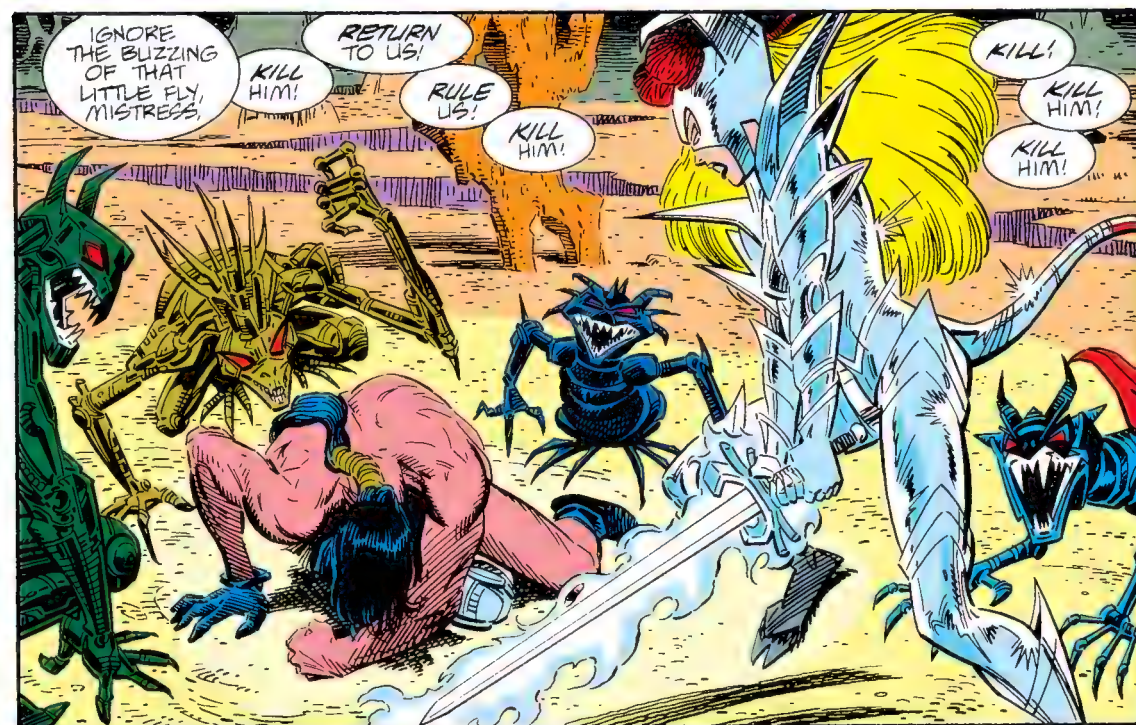
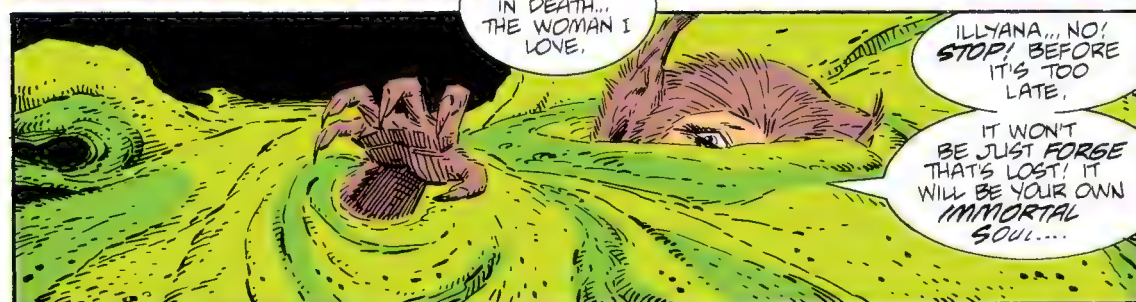
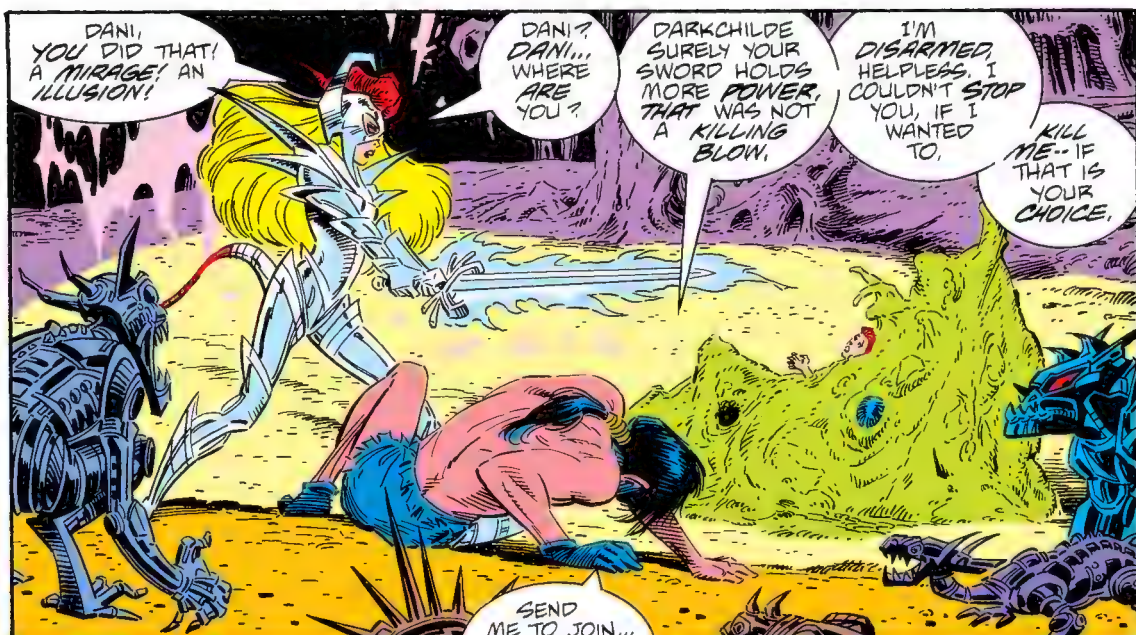


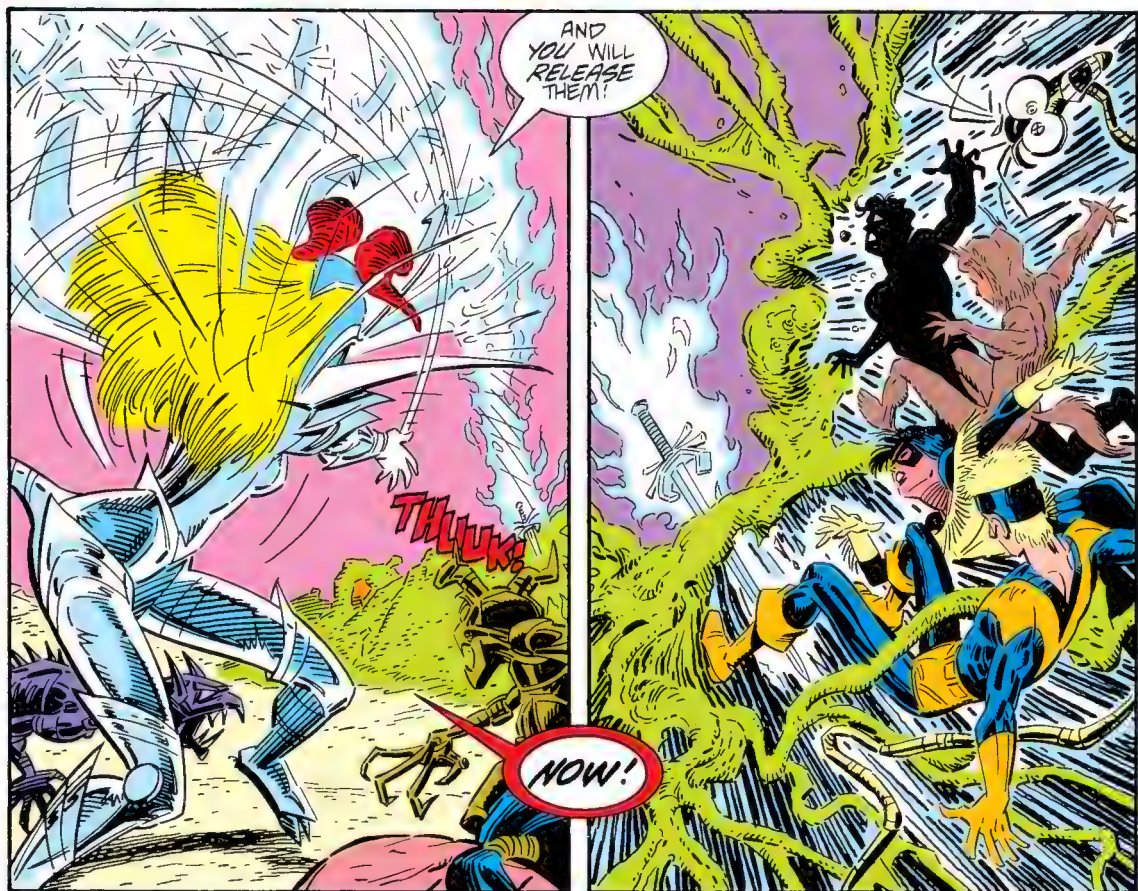
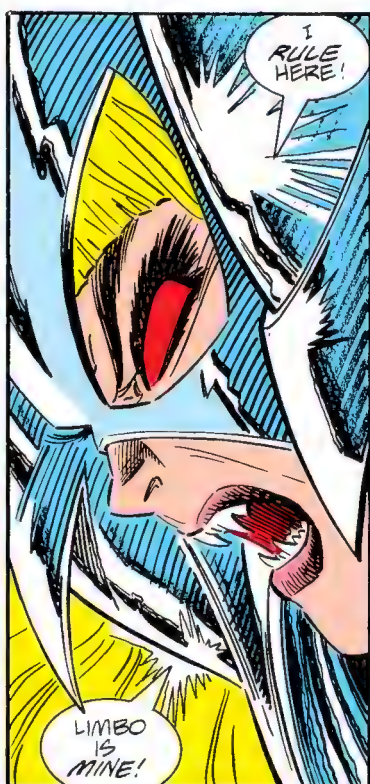
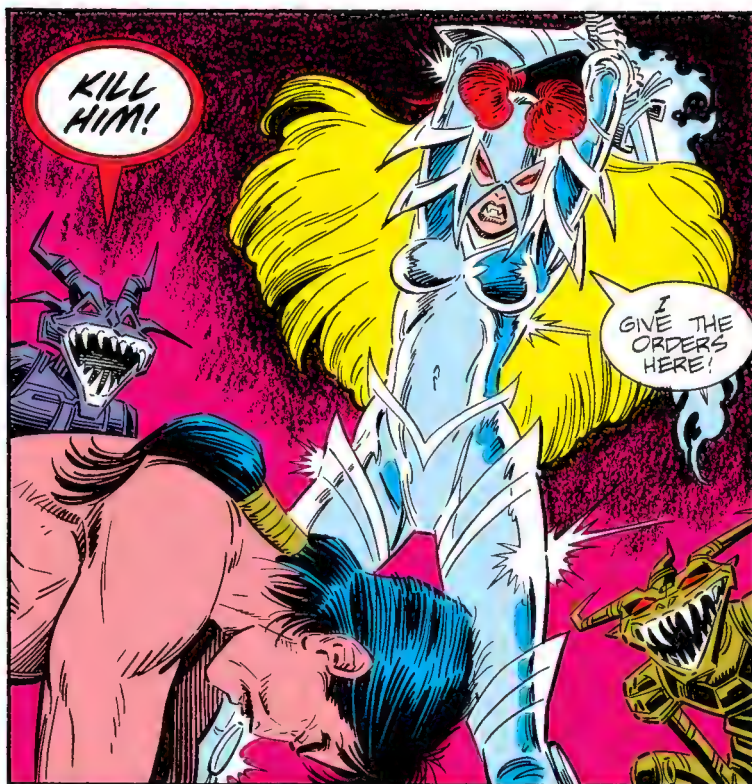
IF THAT'S YOUR CHOICE...

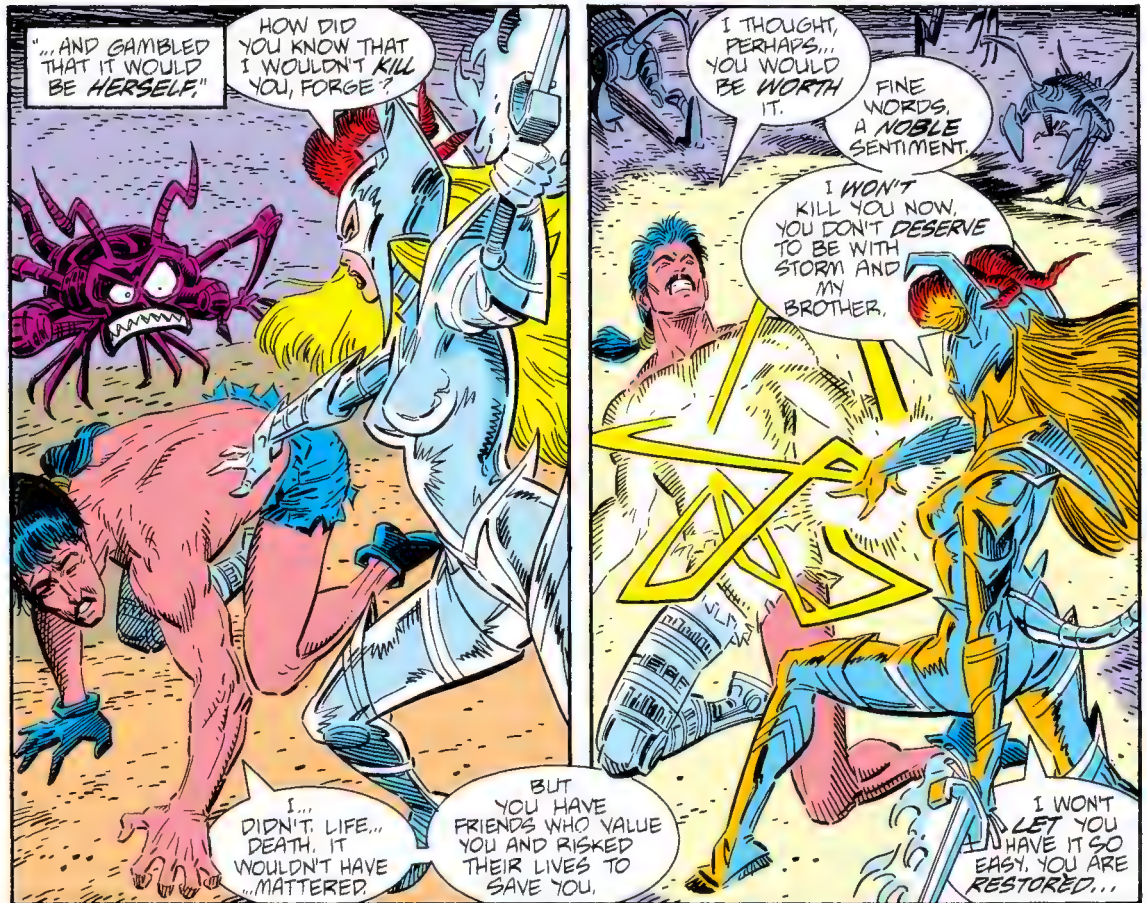
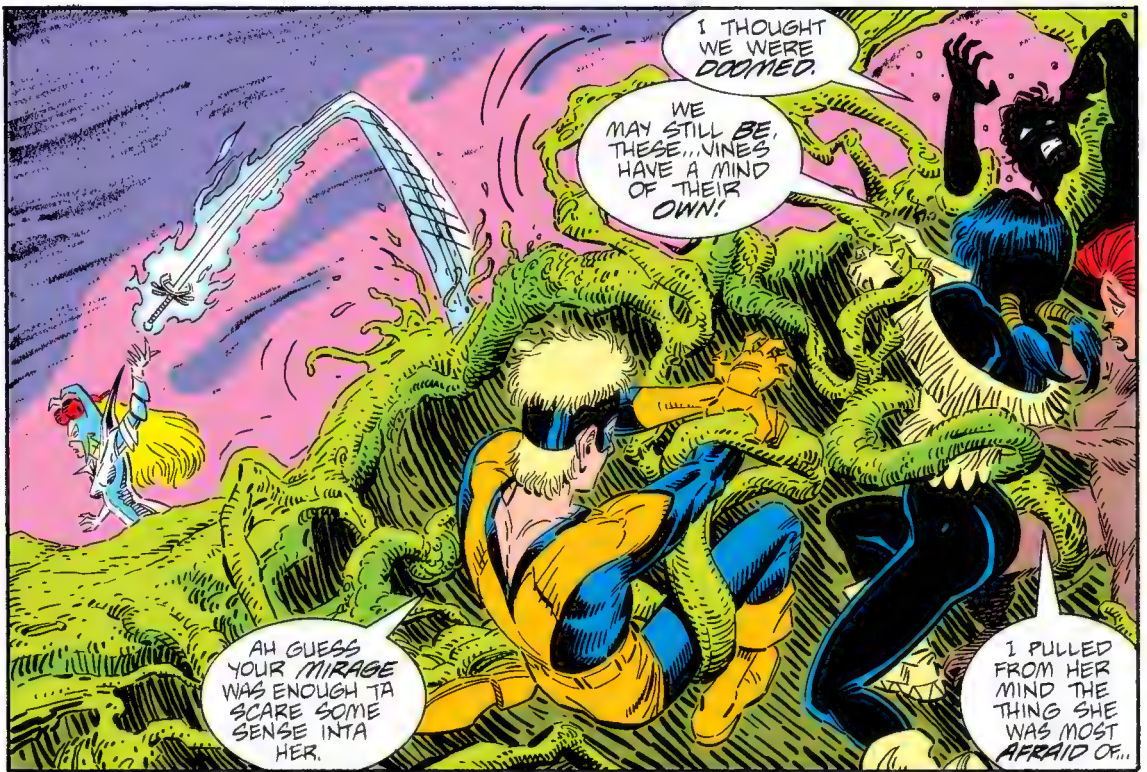
...THEN DIE!

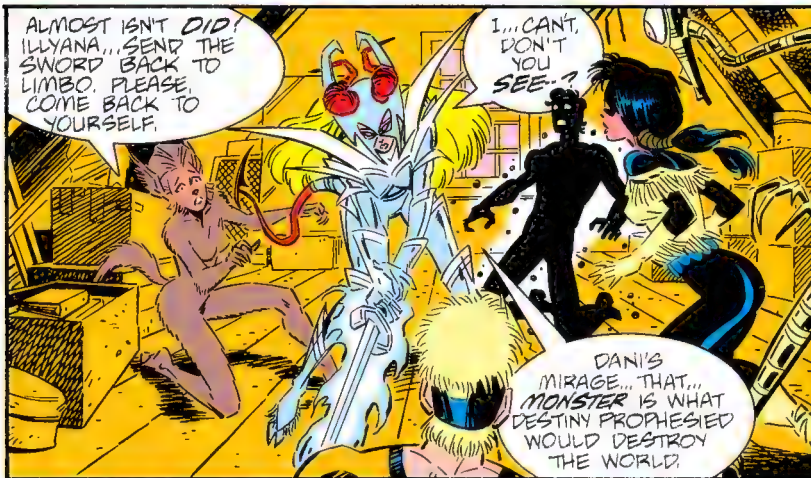
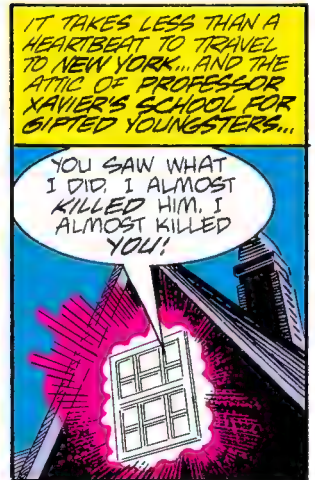
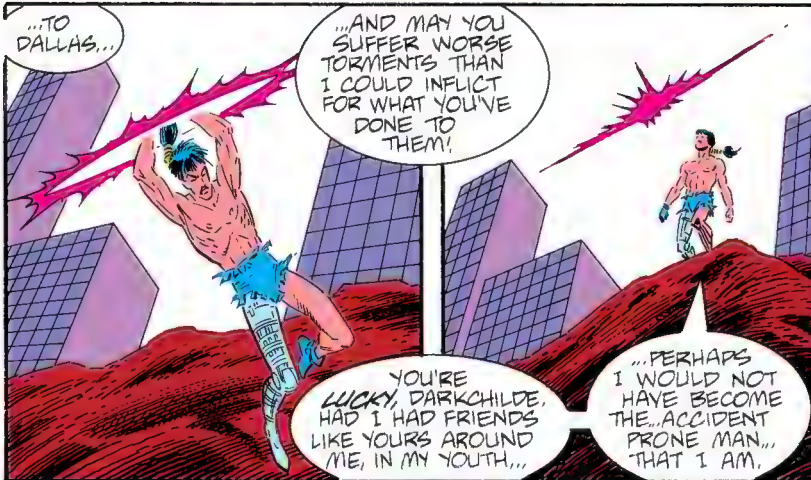
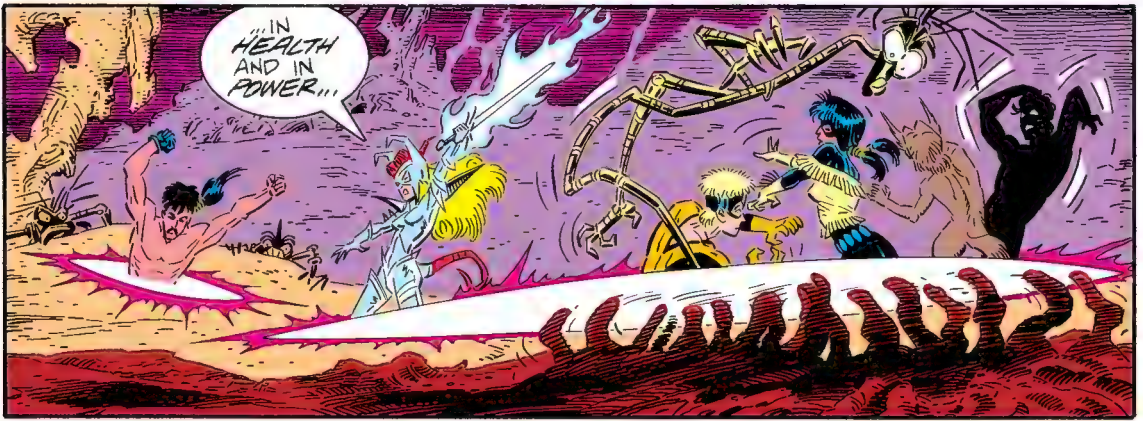


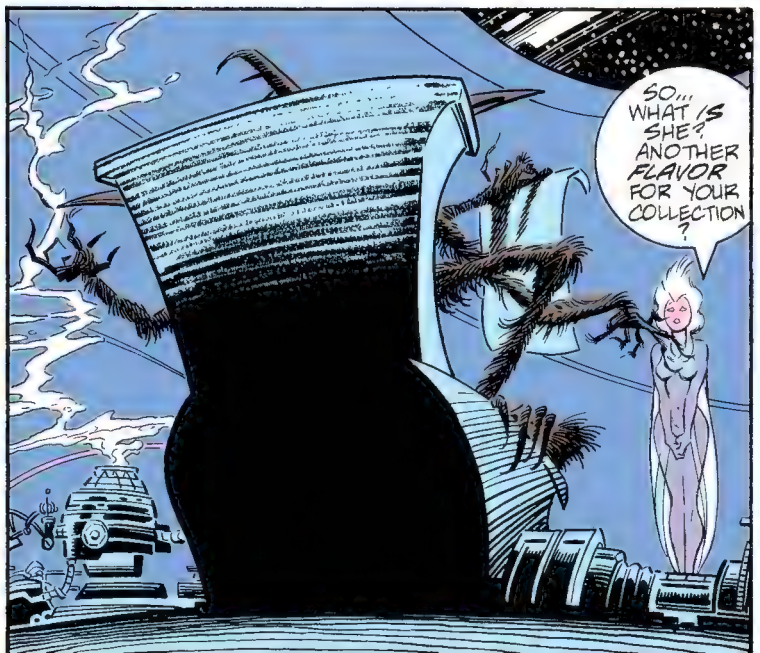
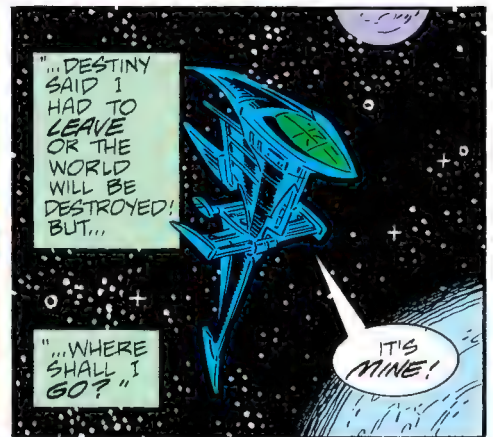
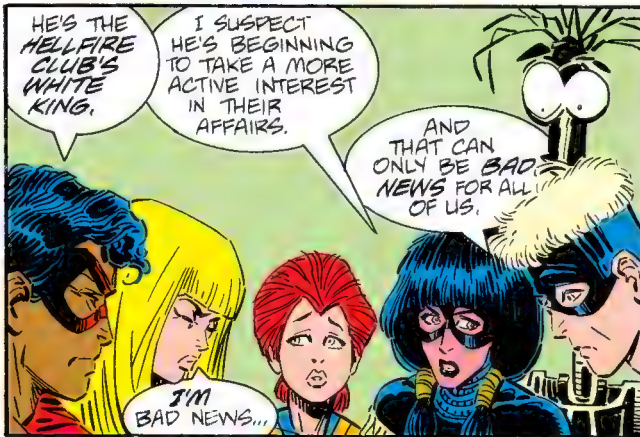
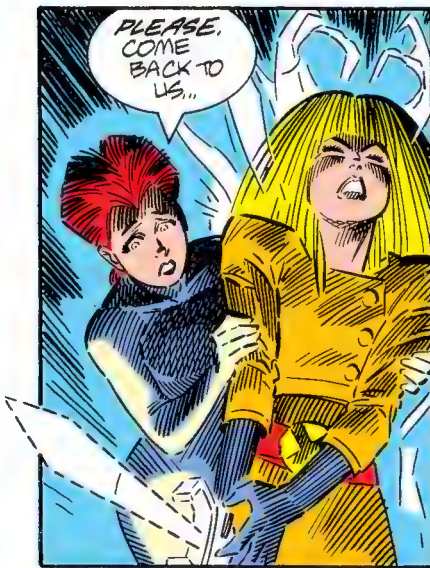














INDEED,
IT IS, LITTLE
GOSAMYR.
AS YOU ARE,
ALSO. AND
ALL YOUR
KIN!

MARVELOUS,
ISN'T IT, HOW
ENTHUSIASTICALLY
BEINGS SELL
THEMSELVES
INTO
BONDAGE?

SHE
DIDN'T.



ITS
WORLD SOLD
IT. LEGALLY,
IT'S THE
SAME.

I HAVE
ACQUIRED IT...
THROUGH
ACCEPTED
BUSINESS
PRACTICE,



I HAVE ITS
CONTRACT.

I HAVE BUT
TO... RECAPTURE
IT. IT HAS
FLED TO ITS
NATIVE PLANET,
YOU SEE...

...WHERE
IT ADVERTISES
ITS WHEREABOUTS
AND HIDES IN
PLAIN
SIGHT.

PERHAPS,
LITTLE GOSAMYR
YOU WILL FIND
IN THIS...
OPERATION...THE
OPPORTUNITY TO
EARN YOUR
FREEDOM...

...EVEN
AS LILA
LOSES ITS
OWN.

NEXT ISSUE--
PROMISE!

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS
FOR ALMOST EVERYONE...!
DON'T MISS OUT!

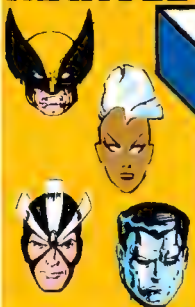


Marvel Fanfare #37 pinup by Bret Blevins

MARVEL

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN



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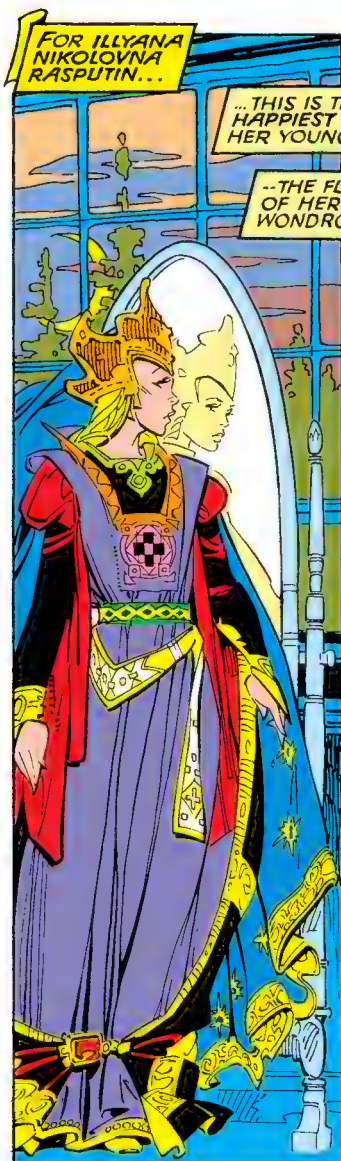
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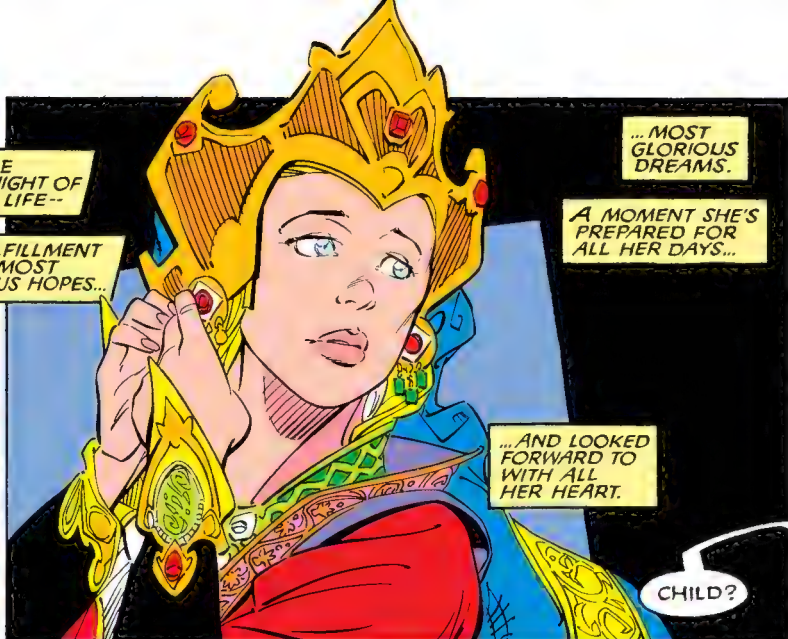
Leonard
&
GREEN



FOR ILLYANA
NIKOLOVNA
RASPUTIN...

... THIS IS THE
HAPPIEST NIGHT OF
HER YOUNG LIFE--

--THE FULFILLMENT
OF HER MOST
WONDERFUL HOPES...

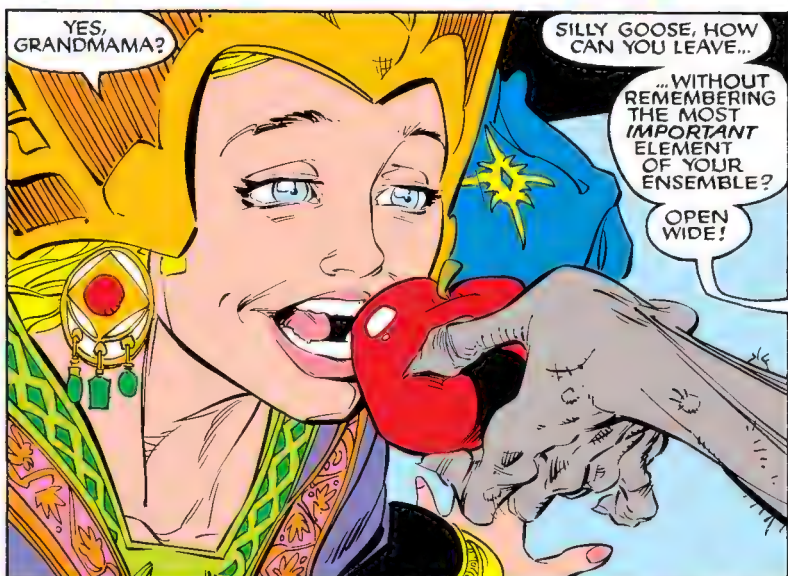


... MOST
GLORIOUS
DREAMS.

A MOMENT SHE'S
PREPARED FOR
ALL HER DAYS...

... AND LOOKED
FORWARD TO
WITH ALL
HER HEART.

CHILD?



YES,
GRANDMAMA?

SILLY GOOSE, HOW
CAN YOU LEAVE...

... WITHOUT
REMEMBERING
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
ELEMENT
OF YOUR
ENSEMBLE?

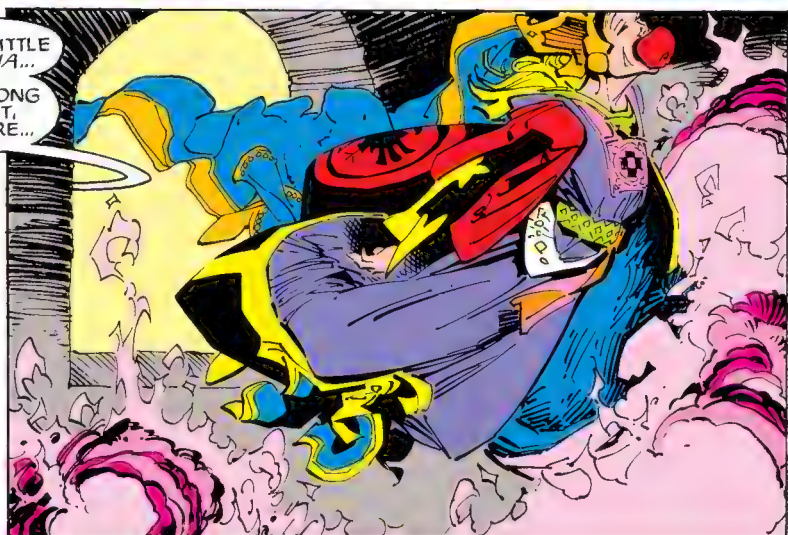
OPEN
WIDE!



PERFECT!

NOW, LITTLE
TSARINA...

... AT LONG
LAST,
YOU'RE...



"...DRESSED for DINNER!"

STARRING THE UNCANNY
X-MEN

ANOTHER
TIME,
ANOTHER
PLACE.*

HIS NAME IS
COLOSSUS.

AND THERE
IS PRECIOUS
LITTLE ON THIS
PLANET...

...CAPABLE OF
WITHSTANDING HIS
ARMORED FURY!

THE EVENTS IN THIS STORY
TAKE PLACE AFTER NEW MUTANTS
#66 — ANN.

A STAN LEE PRESENTATION
CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
RICK LEONARDI, PENCILER
DAN GREEN, INKER
TOM ORZECZOWSKI, LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST
ANN NOCENTI, EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF



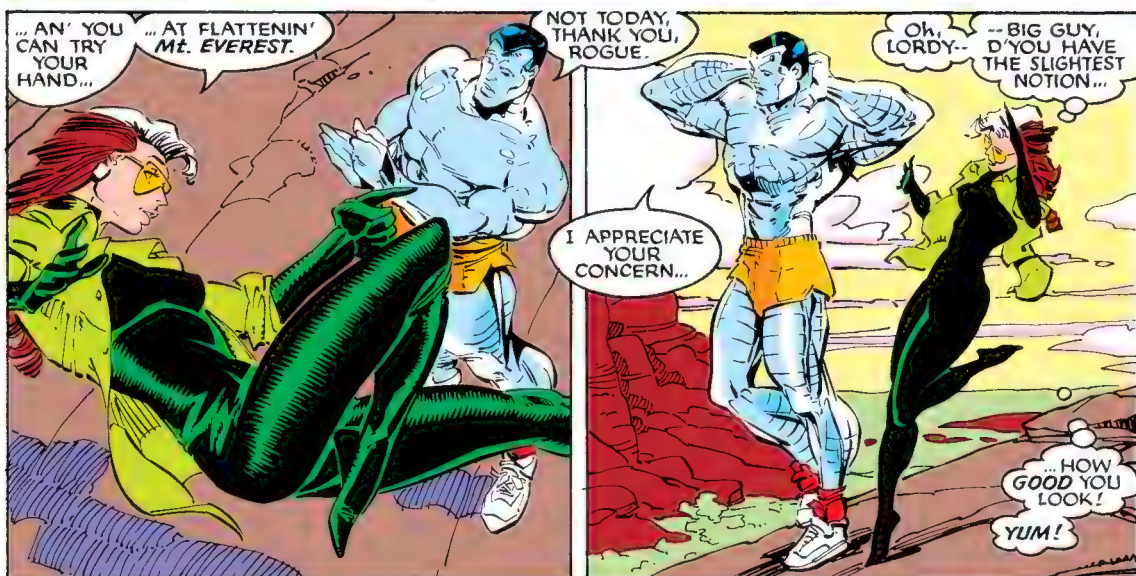
YO, PETEY--

--GREAT AUSTRALIAN DESERT'S PRETTY IMPRESSIVE AS IT IS.

NOT MUCH SENSE YOU ADDIN' TO THE DESOLATION.

ON T'OTHER HAND, SUGAR... IF YOU WANT A REAL CHALLENGE...

...AH'LL BE GLAD TO FLY YOU OVER TO THE HIMALAYAS...



...AN' YOU CAN TRY YOUR HAND...

...AT FLATTENIN' MT. EVEREST.

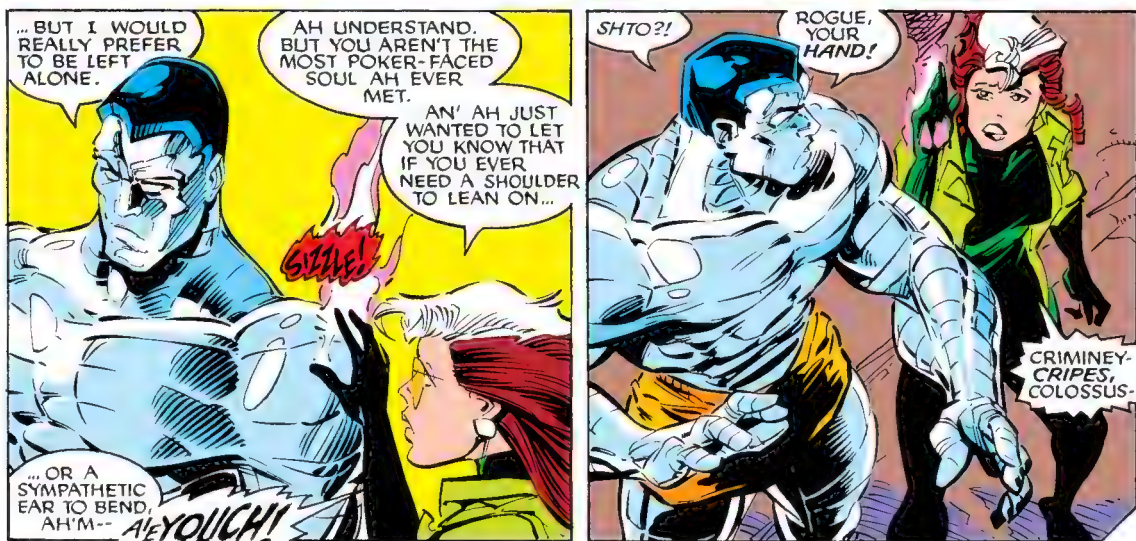
NOT TODAY, THANK YOU, ROGUE.

Oh, LORDY--

...BIG GUY, D'YOU HAVE THE SLIGHTEST NOTION...

I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN...

...HOW GOOD YOU LOOK!
YUM!



...BUT I WOULD REALLY PREFER TO BE LEFT ALONE.

AH UNDERSTAND. BUT YOU AREN'T THE MOST POKER-FACED SOUL AH EVER MET.

AN' AH JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU EVER NEED A SHOULDER TO LEAN ON...

...OR A SYMPATHETIC EAR TO BEND. AH'M--

AHEYOUGH!

SHTO?!

ROGUE, YOUR HAND!

CRIMINEY-CRIPES, COLOSSUS--



--YOU GOT ANY NOTION HOW HOT YOU ARE?!!

GOOD THING AH'M MOSTLY INVULNERABLE, ELSE AH'D HAVE BEEN BURNED!

EVEN MORE SO, IF AH HADN'T FLINCHED SO FAST, AN' OUR SKINS HAD COME INTO CONTACT...

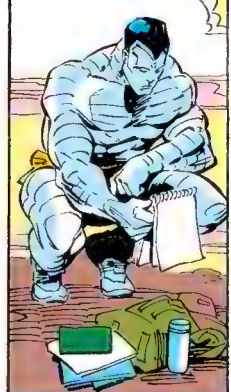
...AH'D HAVE ABSORBED YOUR POWER AN' PSYCHE!



BETTER BE CAREFUL, BUDDY, WHEN YOU'RE IN THE SUN...

...ELSE YOU'LL SCORCH WHOEVER TOUCHES YOU.

ANOTHER DISADVANTAGE, IT APPEARS...



...OF MY INABILITY TO REVERT FROM ARMOR TO HUMAN FORM.

SO MUCH HAS CHANGED, ILLYANA--

-- LITTLE SNOWFLAKE, BELOVED BABY SISTER--



--SINCE LAST I SAW-- eh???

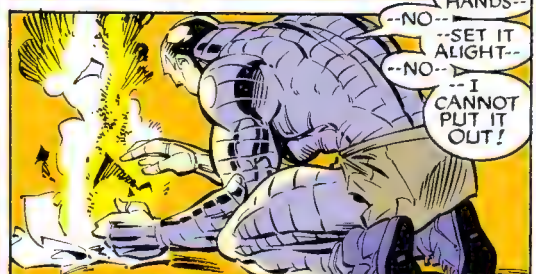
MY SKETCH-BOOK--



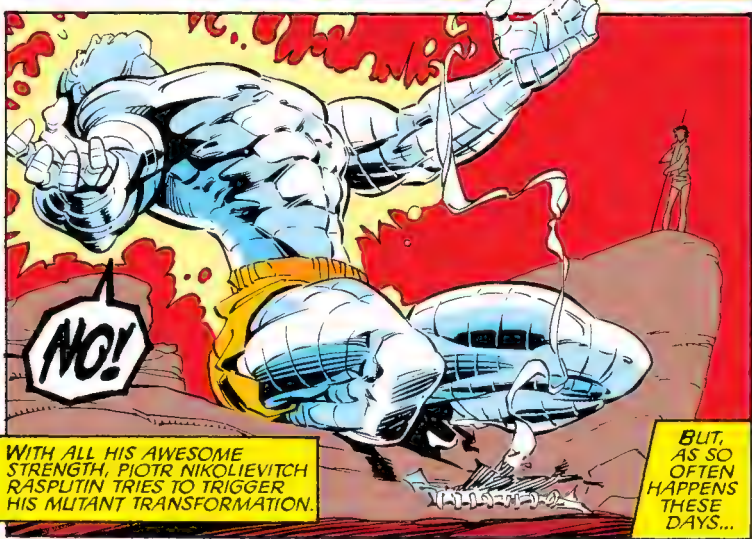
--NO!

FNOUM!

THE HEAT OF MY HANDS--



--NO--
--SET IT ALIGHT--
--NO--
--I CANNOT PUT IT OUT!



NO!

WITH ALL HIS AWESOME STRENGTH, PIOTR NIKOLIEVITCH RASPUTIN TRIES TO TRIGGER HIS MUTANT TRANSFORMATION.

BUT, AS SO OFTEN HAPPENS THESE DAYS...



...HE FAILS.

DO YOU MOCK ME, COMRADE GATEWAY...





LATER...

... AFTER
DINNER...

--A TRULY
VALIANT
CULINARY
EFFORT ON
ROGUE'S
PART...

CRACK!

ANOTHER
PLATE,
WOLVERINE.

WE AIN'T
GOT THAT
MANY
LEFT,
Y'KNOW.

THERE'S
ALWAYS
PAPER.

PUT A SOCK
IN IT, HAVOK.

JUST
RELAX,
PETEY--

-- REMEMBER
THE EXERCISES
I'M TEACHING
YOU--

-- YOU STILL
HAVE NERVES,
SENSATION IN
YOUR FINGERS--

-- TRY
TO FEEL
WITH 'EM--

-- FOCUS YOUR CONCENTRATION,
REFINE YOUR MOTOR CONTROL...

YOU ASK ME...

I DIDN'T.

...I THINK IT'S PRETTY
DARN SNEAKY FOR THE
BIG GALOOT TO BE SO
POWERFUL AND CLUMSY
WE DON'T DARE LET
HIM DO THE DISHES.

OR HOUSEWORK.

CATCH,
DAZZLER!

THANKS, LONGSHOT.
BASIC BULL IN
THE CHINA SHOP,
THAT'S OUR
COLOSSUS.

THE LUCKY
DEVIL.

STORM, COULD
YOU PLEASE
MAKE THE RAIN
A BIT MORE
INTENSE FOR
RINSING--
GREAT, THAT'S
PERFECT.

DISHES ARE DONE, BOSS.

LOOK,
ORORO...

... I KNOW,
MOST OF
THE TEAM, THEY
DON'T HAVE
MUCH IN THE
WAY OF
FAMILY--

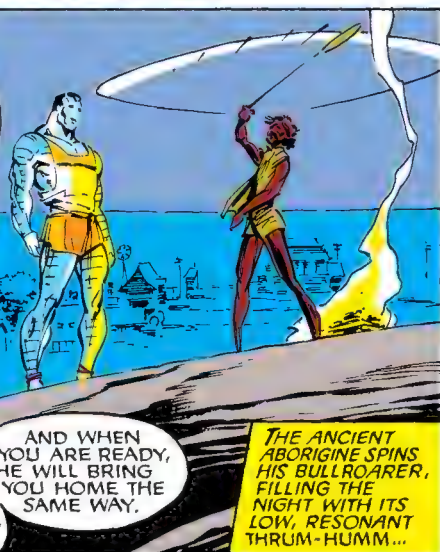
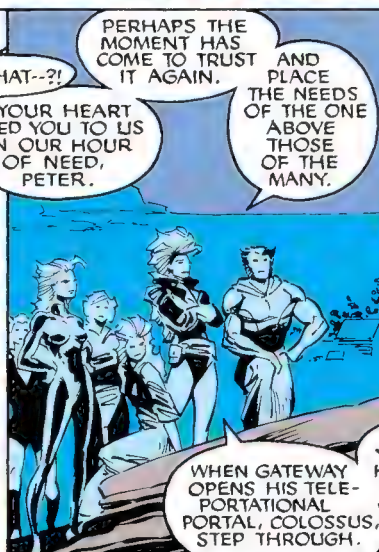
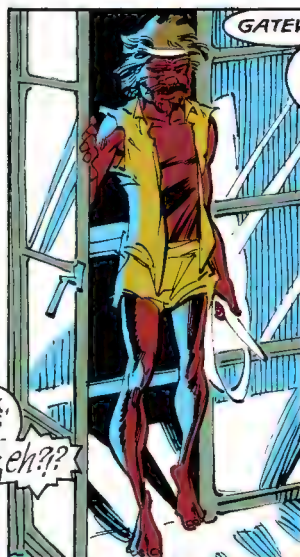
-- OUT-
SIDE OF
EACH OTHER

BUT I'VE GOT A
MOM AND A
SISTER AND I
THINK I KNOW
WHAT PETER'S
GOING
THROUGH.

I KNOW WHAT'S SENSIBLE
AND RATIONAL AND NECESSARY...

... BUT I LIKE
TO THINK I
ALSO KNOW
WHAT'S
RIGHT.

ORORO, WE
SHOULD LET
HIM GO.



ANOTHER PLACE.

IT'S CALLED LIMBO--

--AND IT EXISTS BEYOND THE NORMAL, RATIONAL STRUCTURES OF SPACE AND TIME.

HERE, REALITY IS A MUTABLE CONCEPT, WHATEVER THE REALM'S RULER DESIRES.

UNFORTUNATELY, AT THE MOMENT, THERE'S A CIVIL WAR GOING ON, LED BY THE UPSTART DEMON S'YM AGAINST THE CURRENT SORCERESS SUPREME, THE DARK-CHILDE ARCHMAGE...

...ILLYANA NIKOLOVNA RASPUTIN.

SO DON'T KEEP US IN SUSPENSE, BIG BOSS...

...WHAT'S THE BRAT-BABE DOIN'?

WATCH THE MOUTH, SMILEY-FACE.

MAGIK THERE SENT YOU BOYS TO LIMBO.

YOU SERVE S'YM NOW.

YOU SHOW SOME RESPECT--

--OR ELSE!

YESSIR! ANYTHING YOU SAY, SIR!

"IT'S A MAJOR SPELL," THE DEMON SAYS, HIS ROUGH VOICE TOUCHED WITH UNACCUSTOMED AWE...

"...AS BIG AN' BLACK AS THEY COME:

"...NECROMANCY-- TO SUMMON THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE!"

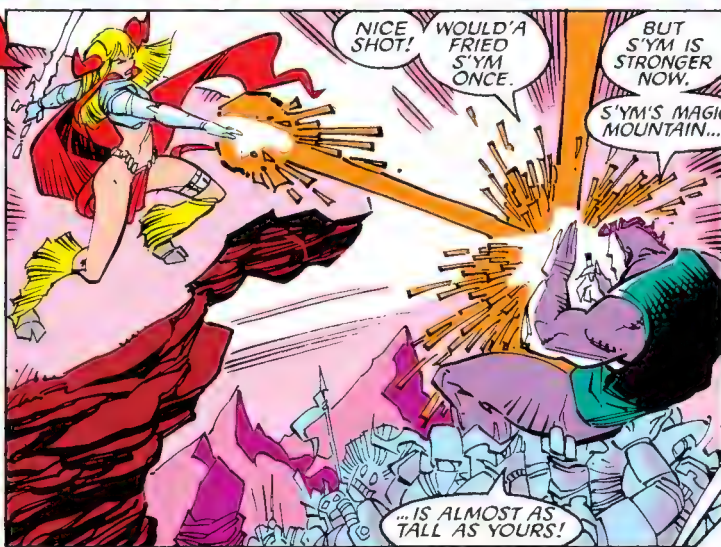
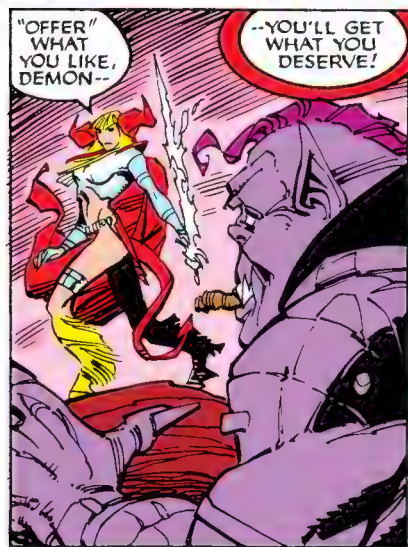
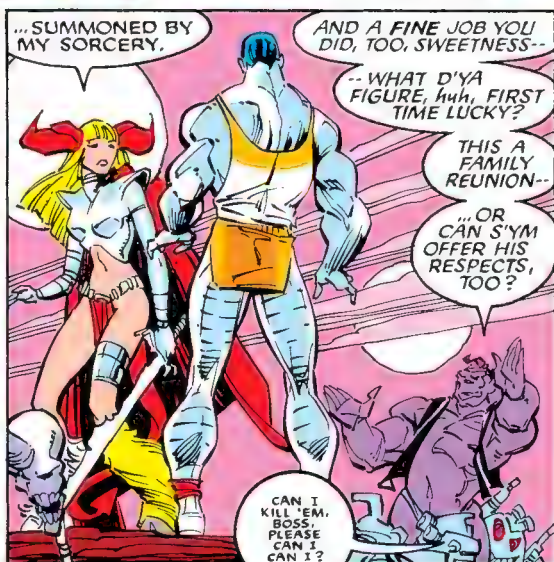
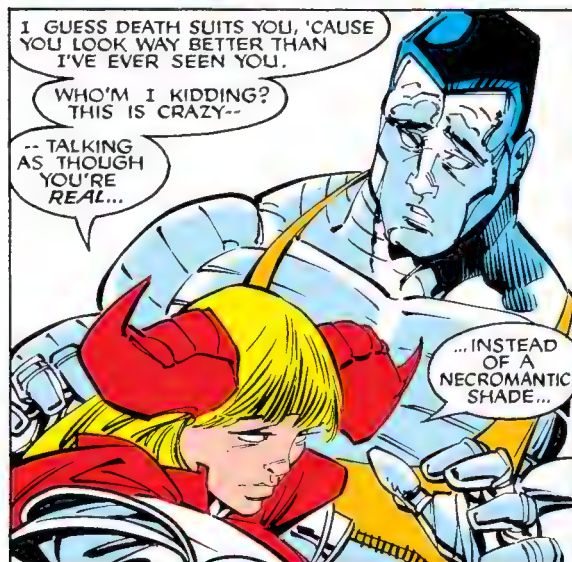
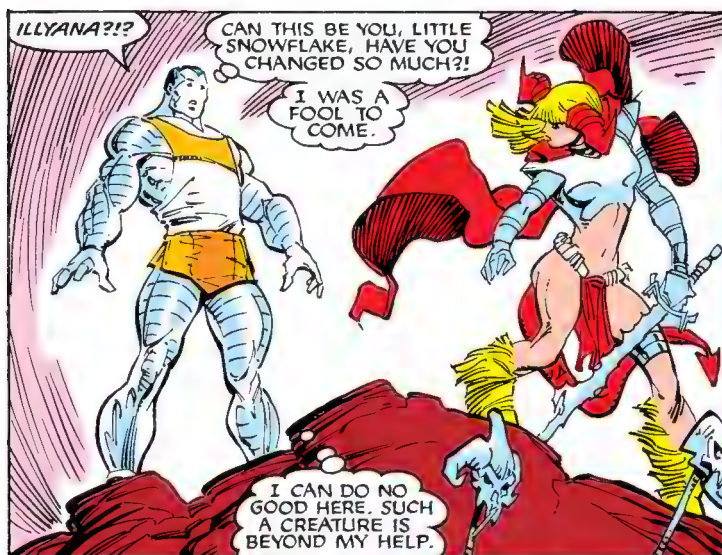
BY ALL THE SPIRITS OF THE ABYSS...

BY HEART-BLOOD AND SOULFIRE...

...I SUMMON...

BUT-- BEFORE THE NAME CAN BE SPOKEN, THE DREAD POWERS INVOKED, THE SPELL COMPLETED...

...HE IS THERE!



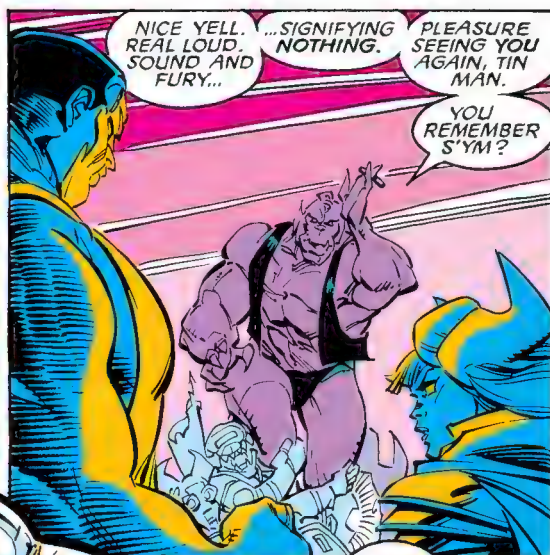


AS S'YM GROWS,
DARKCHILDE...

...YOU
WEAKEN.

WON'T BE
LONG BEFORE
LIMBO
BELONGS
TO S'YM.

NEVER!



NICE YELL.
REAL LOUD.
SOUND AND
FURY...

...SIGNIFYING
NOTHING.

PLEASURE
SEEING YOU
AGAIN, TIN
MAN.

YOU
REMEMBER
S'YM?

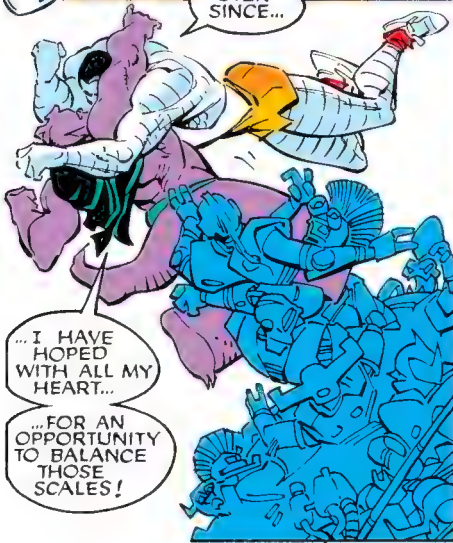
ONLY
TOO
WELL!



IT WAS
YOU...

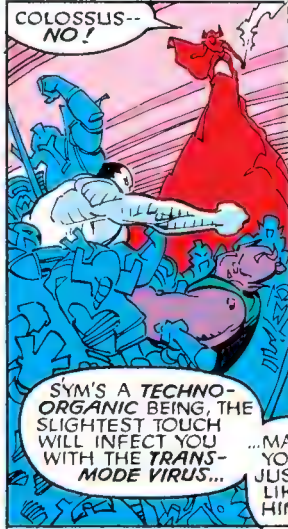
... WHO HELPED
YOUR DEMON MASTER,
BELASCO, STEAL ILLYANA
AWAY TO THIS FOUL
DOMAIN, AND TURN HER
INTO THE SORCERESS
SHE IS TODAY!

EVER
SINCE...



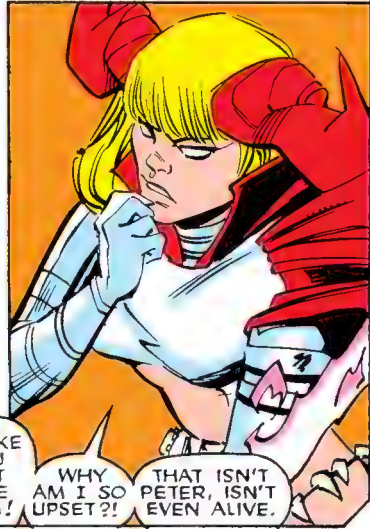
... I HAVE
HOPE
WITH ALL MY
HEART...

... FOR AN
OPPORTUNITY
TO BALANCE
THOSE
SCALES!



COLOSSUS--
NO!

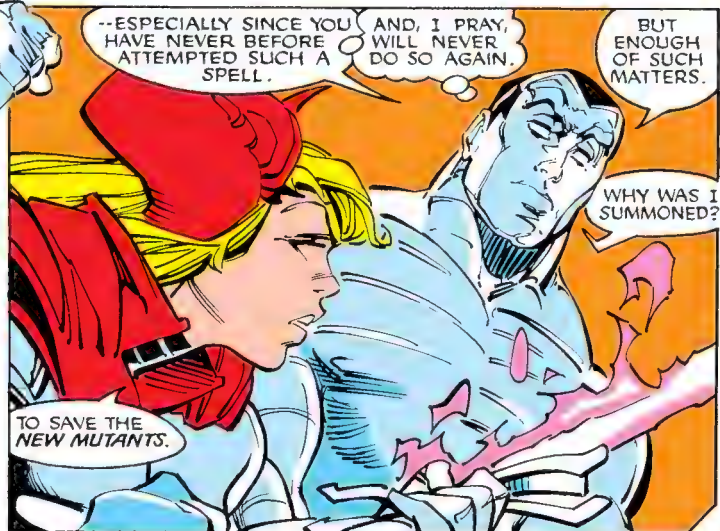
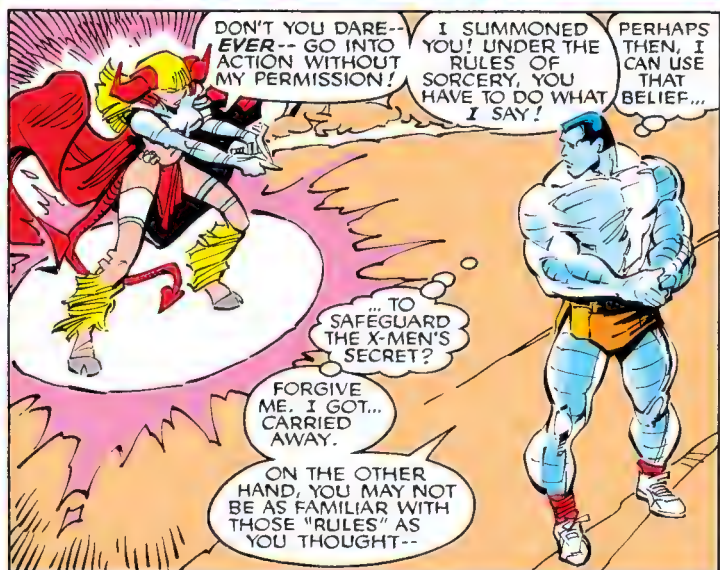
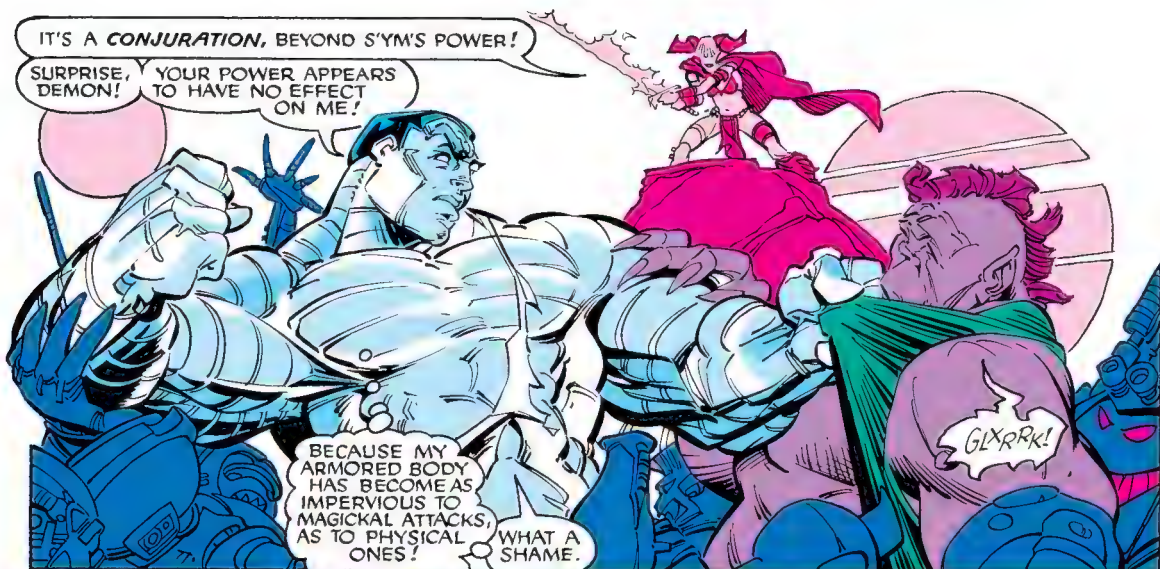
S'YM'S A **TECHNO-
ORGANIC** BEING, THE
SLIGHTEST TOUCH
WILL INFECT YOU
WITH THE **TRANS-
MODE VIRUS**...



...MAKE
YOU
JUST
LIKE
HIM!

WHY
AM I SO
UPSET?!

THAT ISN'T
PETER, ISN'T
EVEN ALIVE.



THERE'S A FLASH OF LIGHT AS ONE OF MAGIK'S TELEPORTER "STEPPING DISKS" MATERIALIZES BENEATH THEM...

...AND-- PRESTO-- THEY'RE SOMEWHERE ELSE IN HER ELDRITCH REALM.



IS THAT--
PROFESSOR
XAVIER'S
SCHOOL?!

BARE BONES
FRAMEWORK.

BUT IT'S
GETTING MORE
COMPLETE ALL
THE TIME.

WE HAVE
TILL THE
REPLICATION'S
FINISHED...

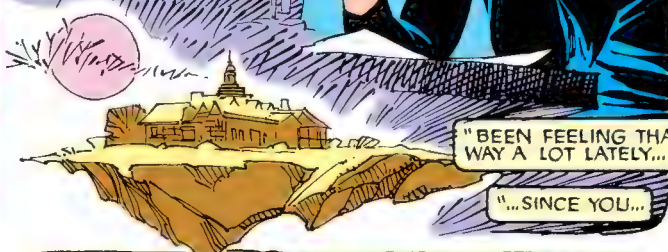
...TO SAVE
THE KIDS.

FROM
WHOM?

"LISTEN UP,
I'LL TELL YOU.

"IT WAS LATE-- I WAS SLOGGING
THROUGH A TERM PAPER ON
MIKHAIL BULGAKOV'S OUTLAW
CLASSIC, *THE MASTER AND
MARGARITA*.

"I LIKED THE
BOOK, I SIMPLY
WASN'T IN THE
MOOD FOR
SCHOOLWORK.

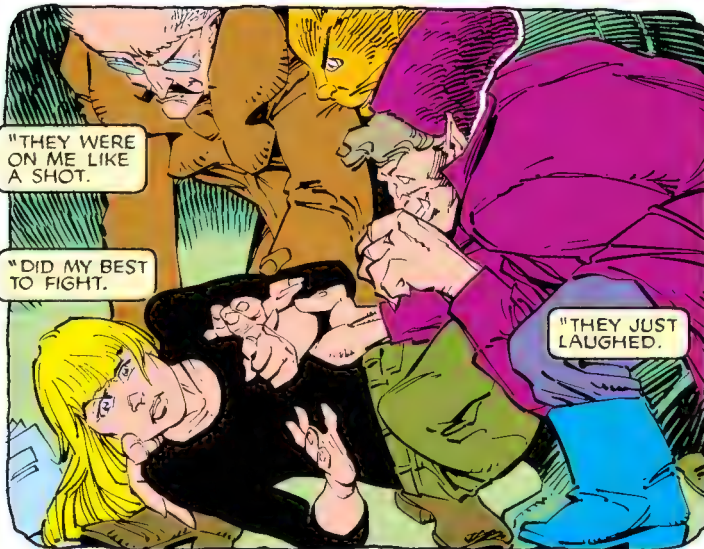


"BEEN FEELING THAT
WAY A LOT LATELY...

"...SINCE YOU...

"WELL, ANYWAY-- ALL
OF A SUDDEN,
COMPANY DROPPED IN,
LITERALLY OUT OF
NOWHERE--

"-- THREE CHARACTERS FROM THE
NOVEL: *AZAZELLO, BEHEMOTH
AND KOROVIEV*, COME TO LIFE!



"THEY WERE
ON ME LIKE
A SHOT.

"DID MY BEST
TO FIGHT.

"THEY JUST
LAUGHED.

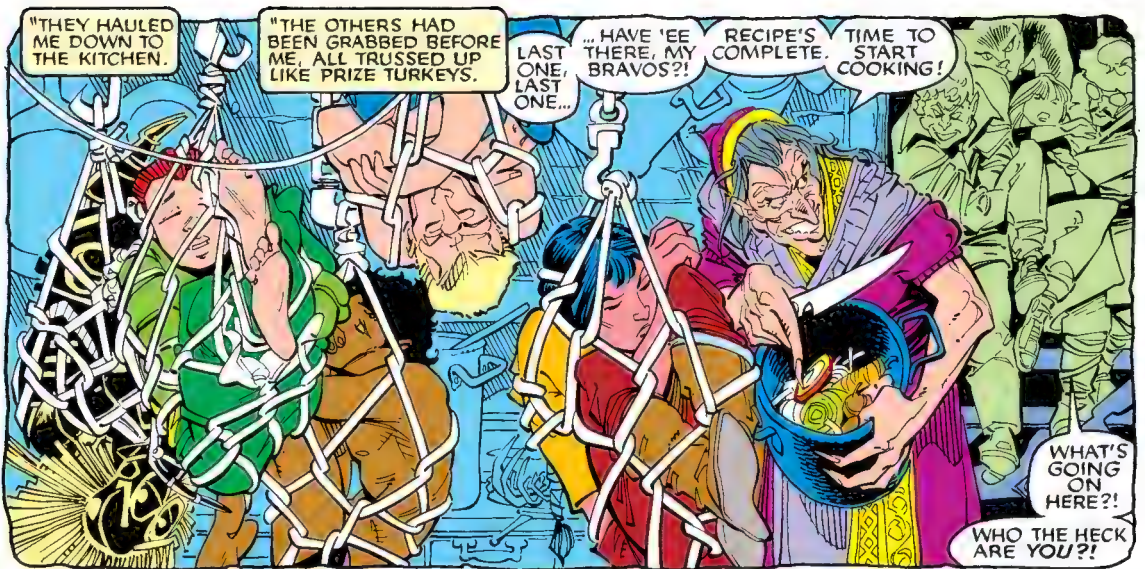
THEY WILL
NOT LAUGH
WHEN I AM
DONE.

YOU
MEAN
THAT!

YOU'RE
REALLY
UPSET!!!



IF I AM THE ESSENCE
OF YOUR BROTHER'S
HEART AND SOUL-- FOR
WHAT ELSE IS A SPIRIT, EVEN
ONE SUMMONED BY THE FOUL-
EST MEANS-- HOW CAN I RE-
SPOND ANY OTHER WAY WHEN
YOU SAY YOU ARE HARMED?



"THEY HAULED ME DOWN TO THE KITCHEN."

"THE OTHERS HAD BEEN GRABBED BEFORE ME, ALL TRUSSSED UP LIKE PRIZE TURKEYS."

LAST ONE, LAST ONE...

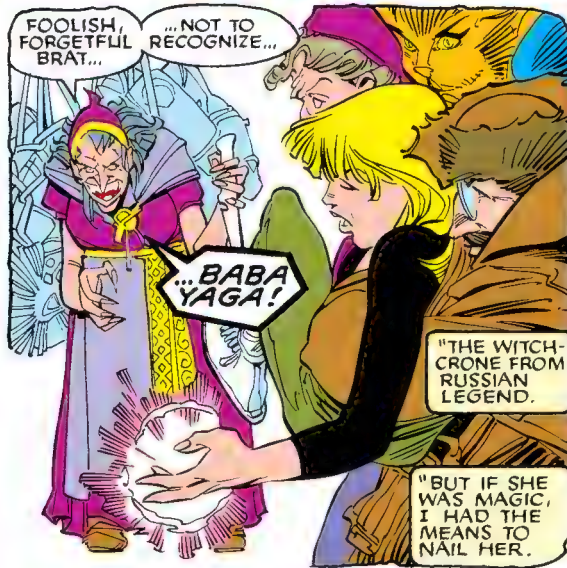
...HAVE 'EE THERE, MY BRAVOS?!

RECIPE'S COMPLETE.

TIME TO START COOKING!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!



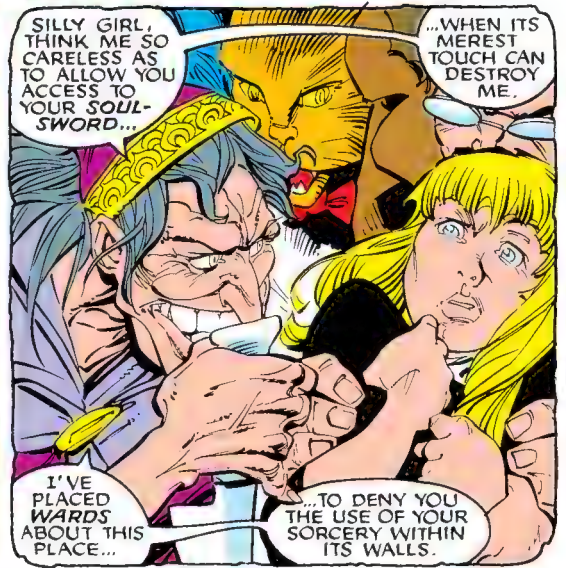
FOOLISH, FORGETFUL BRAT...

...NOT TO RECOGNIZE...

...BABA YAGA!

"THE WITCH-CRONE FROM RUSSIAN LEGEND."

"BUT IF SHE WAS MAGIC, I HAD THE MEANS TO NAIL HER."



SILLY GIRL, THINK ME SO CARELESS AS TO ALLOW YOU ACCESS TO YOUR SOUL-SWORD...

...WHEN ITS MEREST TOUCH CAN DESTROY ME.

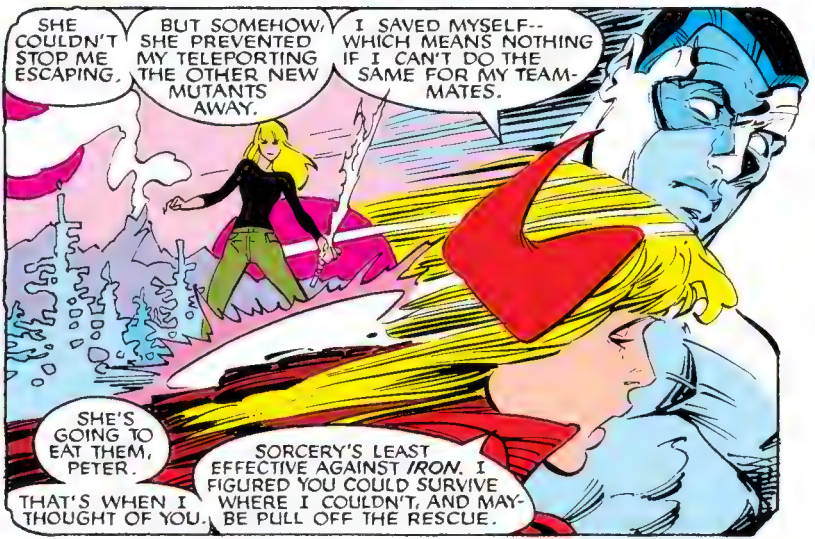
I'VE PLACED WARDS ABOUT THIS PLACE...

...TO DENY YOU THE USE OF YOUR SORCERY WITHIN ITS WALLS.



"FORTUNATELY..."

"...TELE-PORTING IS MY MUTANT POWER."



SHE COULDN'T STOP ME ESCAPING.

BUT SOMEHOW, SHE PREVENTED MY TELEPORTING THE OTHER NEW MUTANTS AWAY.

I SAVED MYSELF-- WHICH MEANS NOTHING IF I CAN'T DO THE SAME FOR MY TEAM-MATES.

SHE'S GOING TO EAT THEM, PETER.

THAT'S WHEN I THOUGHT OF YOU.

SORCERY'S LEAST EFFECTIVE AGAINST IRON. I FIGURED YOU COULD SURVIVE WHERE I COULDN'T, AND MAYBE PULL OFF THE RESCUE.

EARTH--

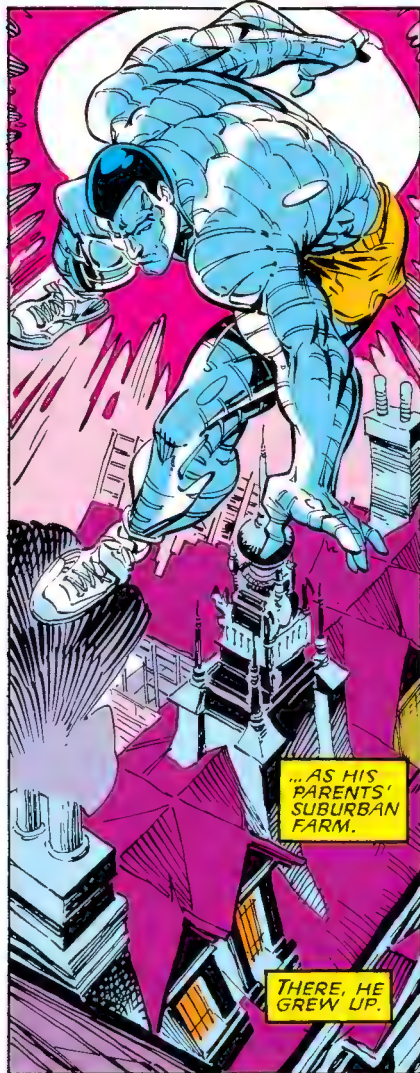
--NOT AS IT
WAS OR IS...

... BUT AS IT MAY
WELL BECOME...

... A WORLD TRANS-
FORMED, AS THIS
MANSION THAT
HOUSES PROFESSOR
XAVIER'S SCHOOL
FOR GIFTED YOUNG-
STERS HAS BEEN...

... INTO SOMETHING
TRANSCENDENTLY,
UNSPEAKABLY HIDEOUS.

IN MANY WAYS, THIS WAS AS MUCH
PETER RASPUTIN'S HOME...



... AS HIS
PARENTS'
SUBURBAN
FARM.

THERE, HE
GREW UP.

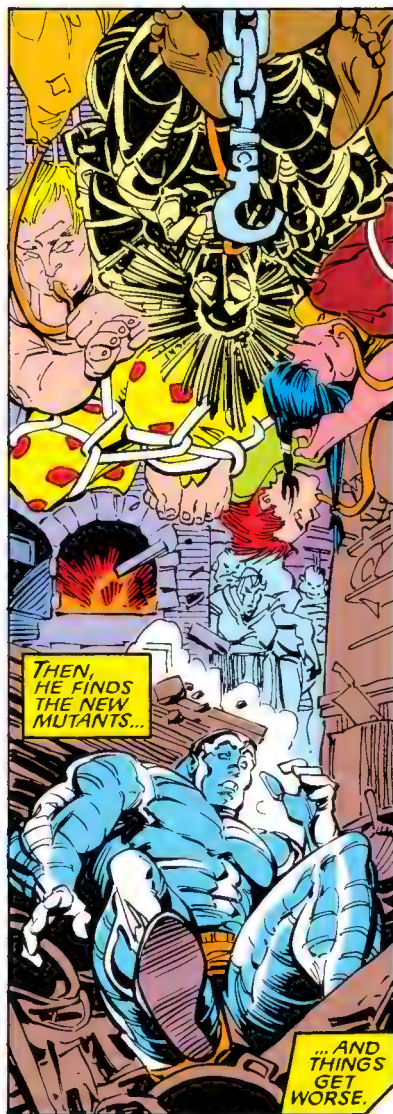
HERE, HE
BECAME
A MAN.

AND IT TEARS
HIS HEART...

... TO SEE
WHAT
SORCERY
HAS DONE
TO IT.

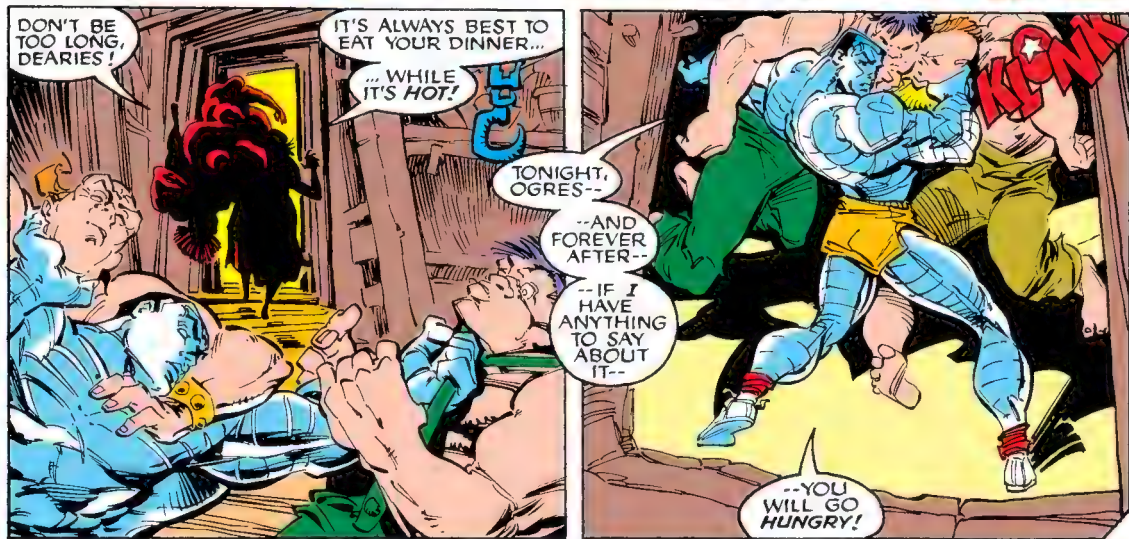
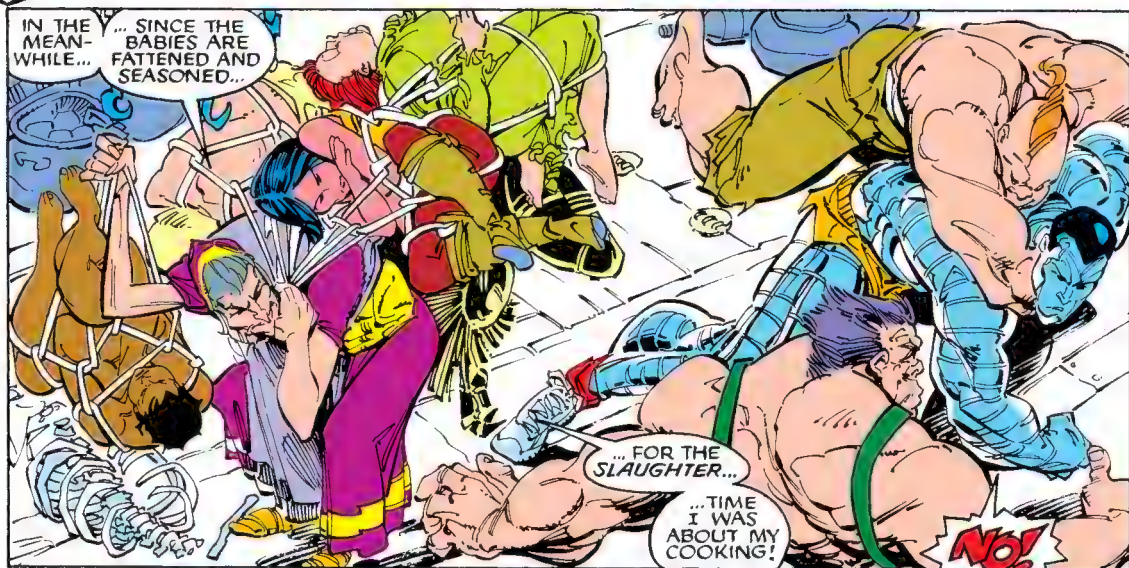
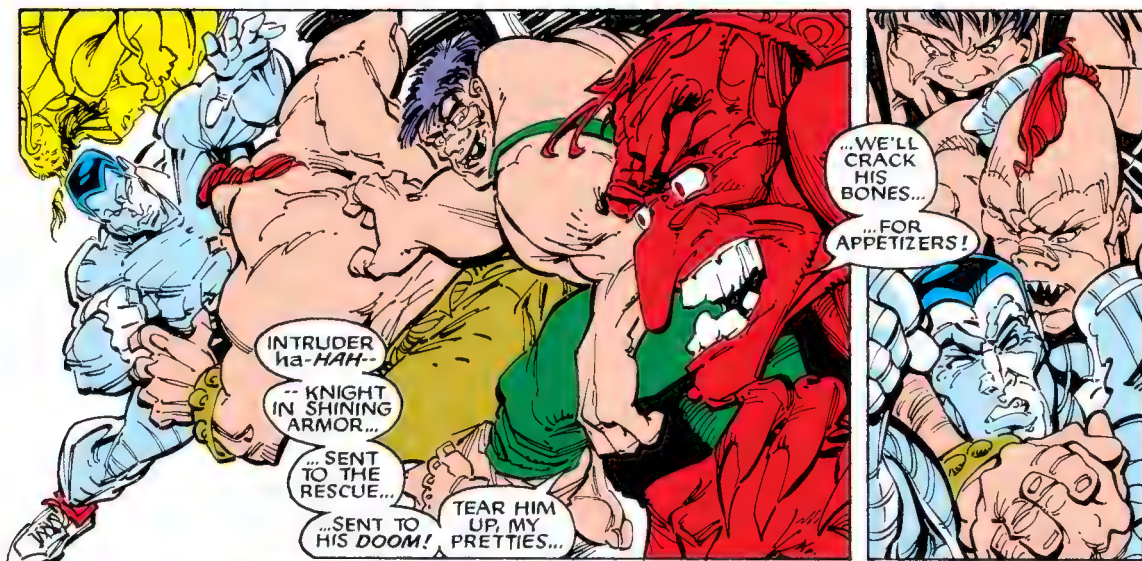


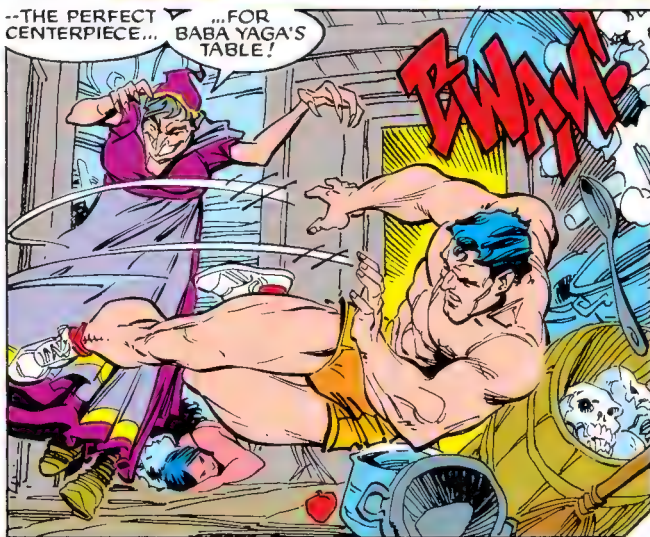
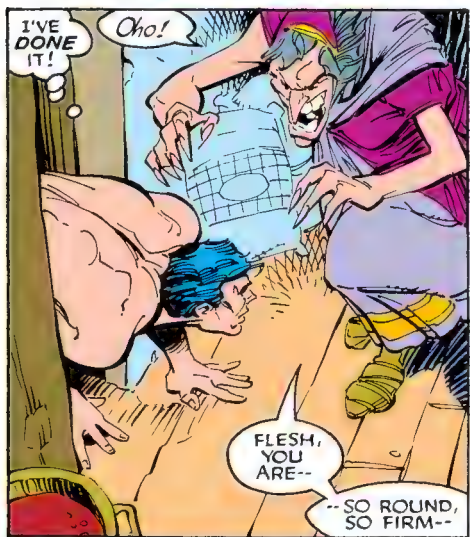
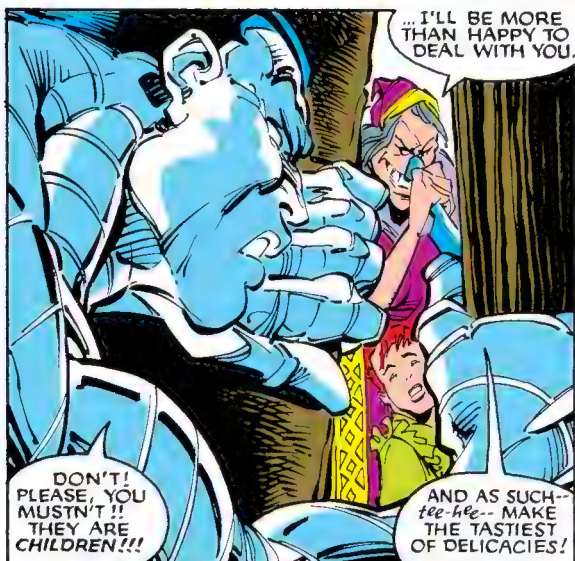
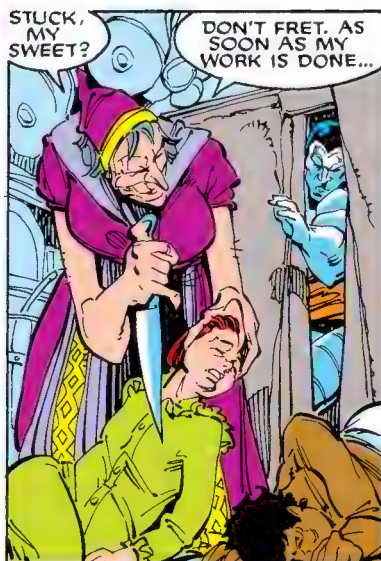
STROOM!

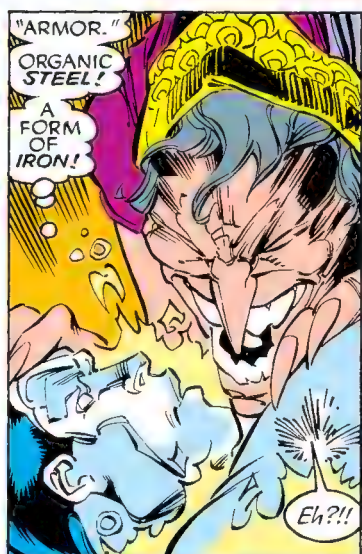
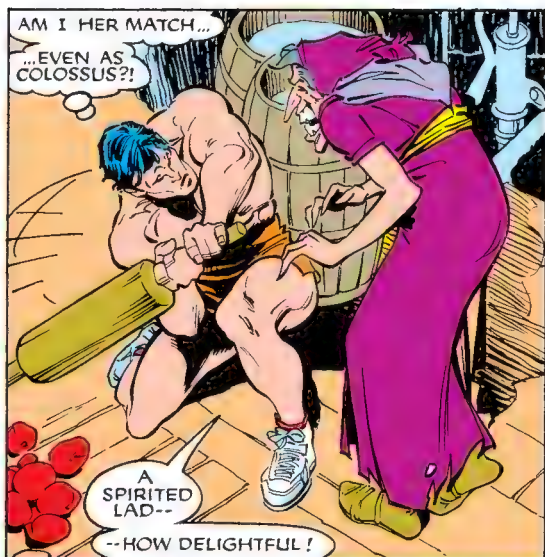
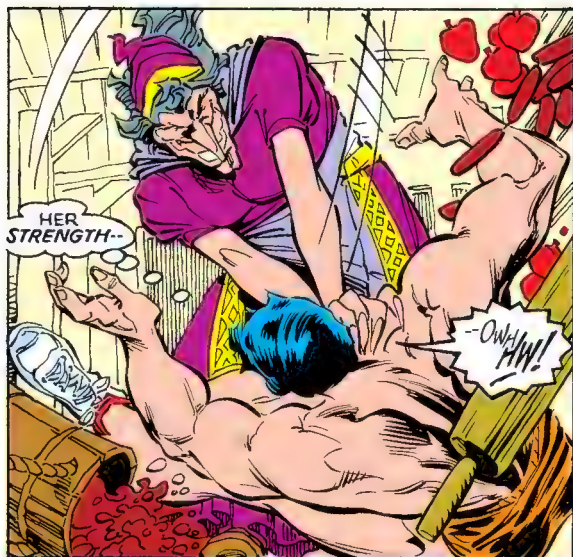


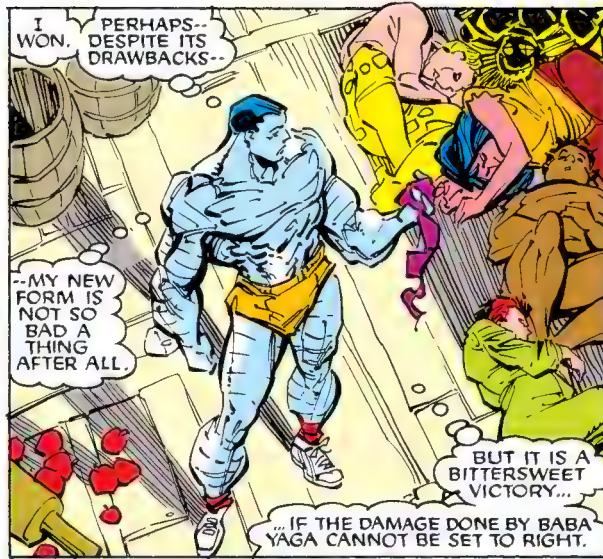
THEN,
HE FINDS
THE NEW
MUTANTS...

... AND THINGS
GET
WORSE.



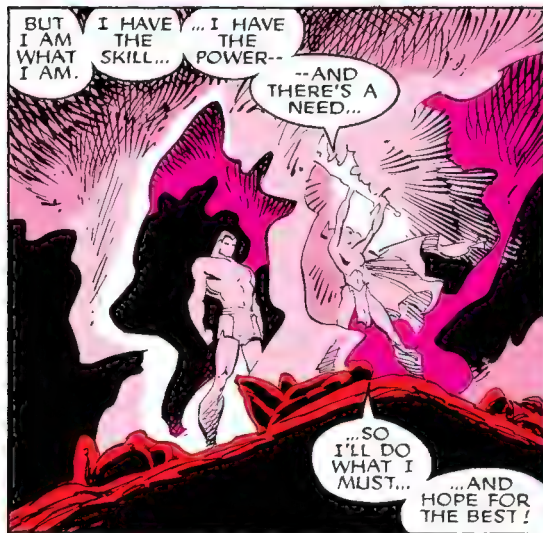
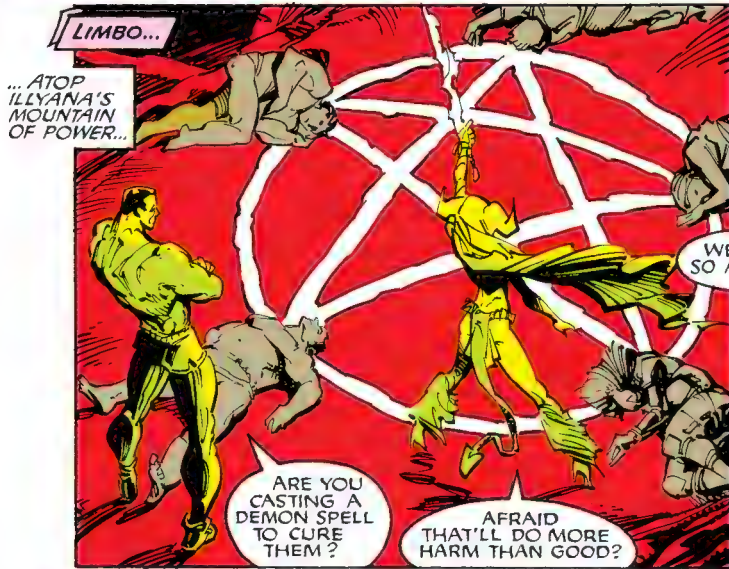


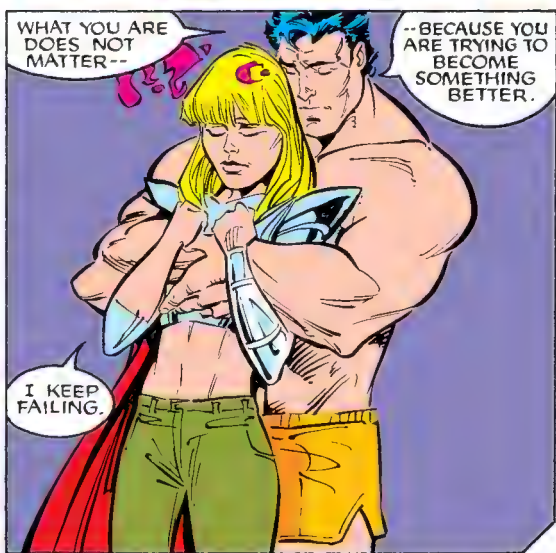
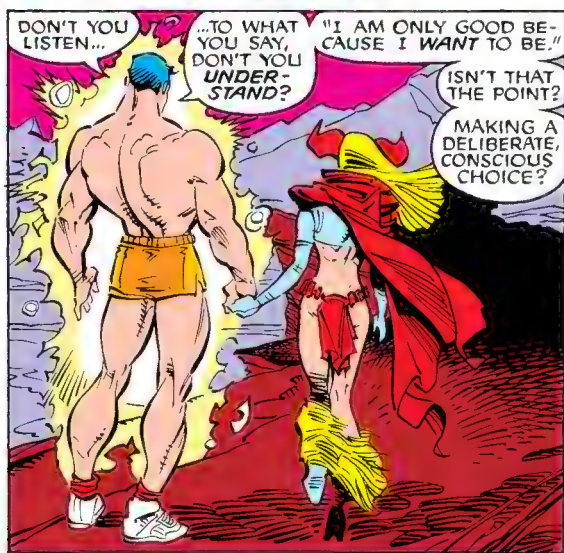
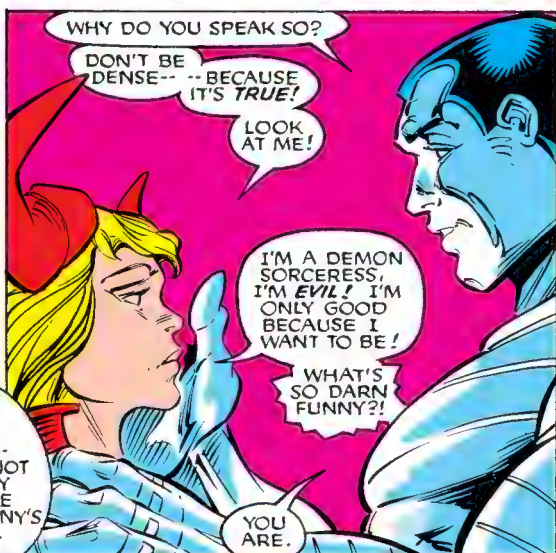
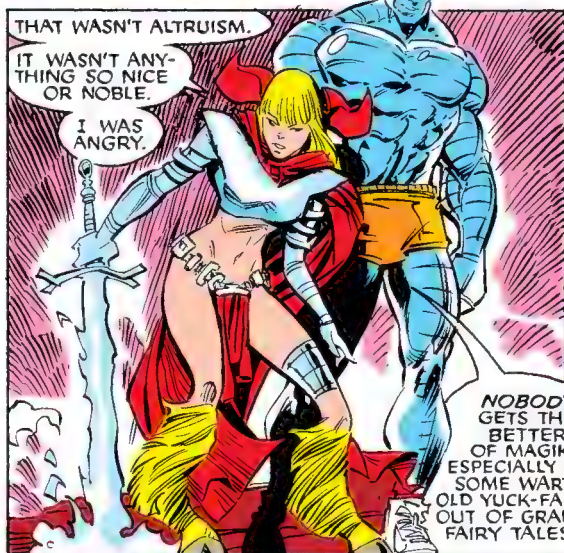
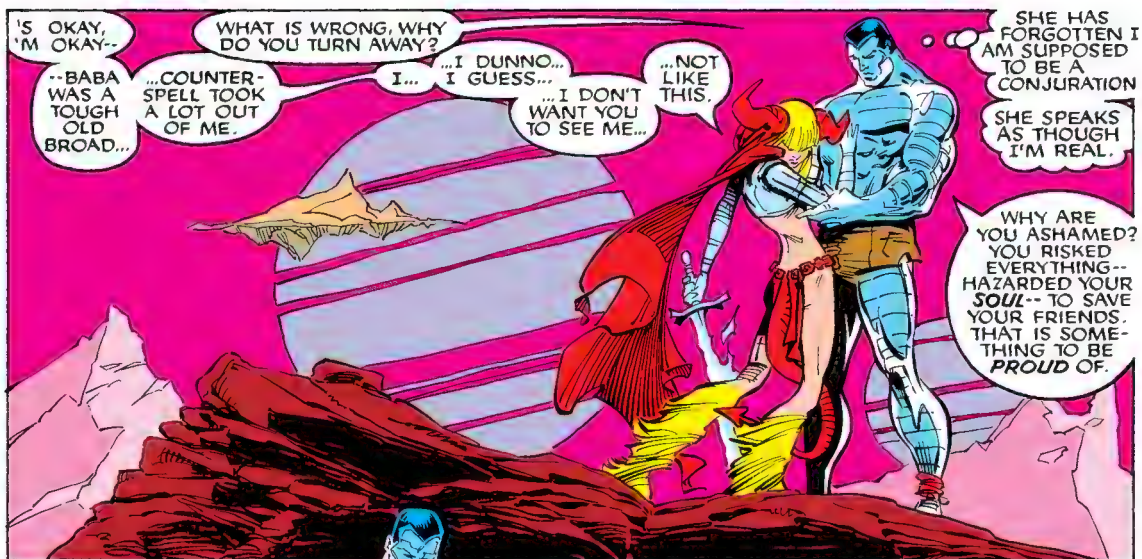


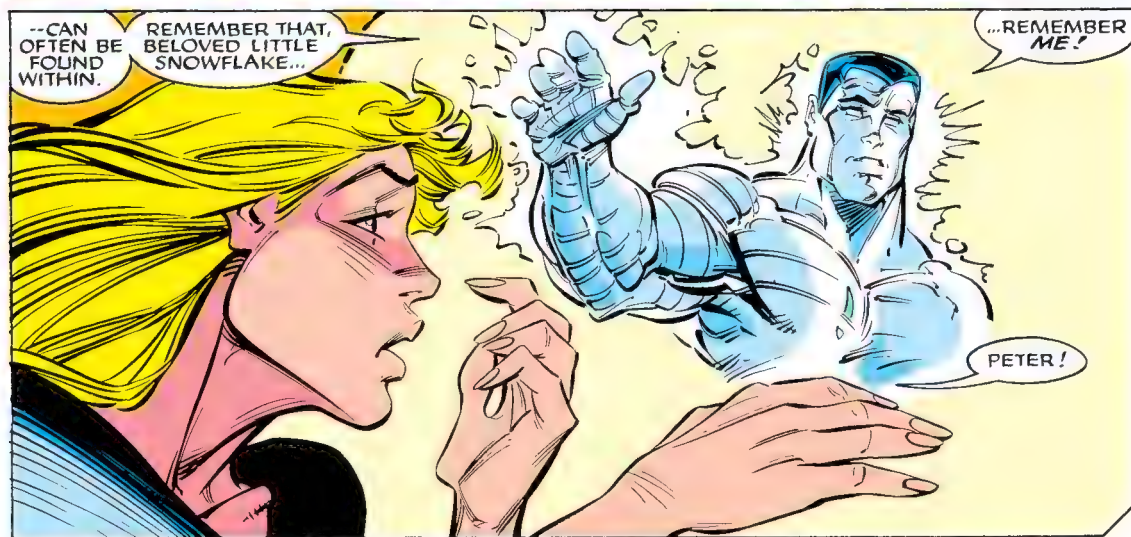
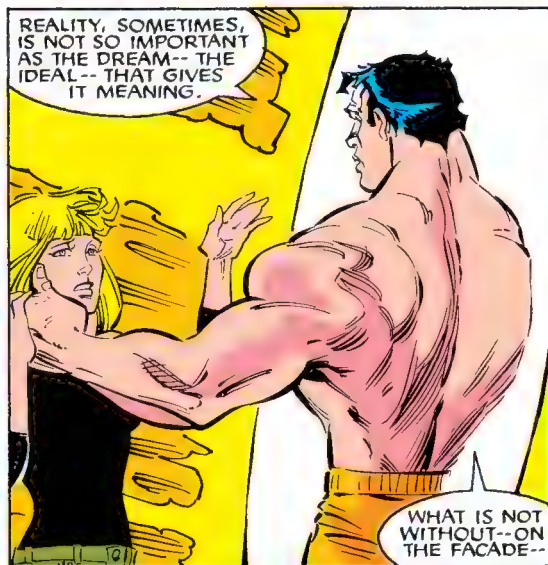
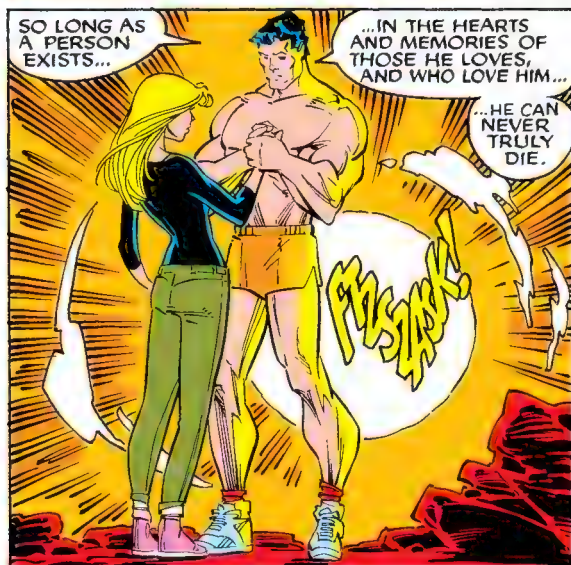
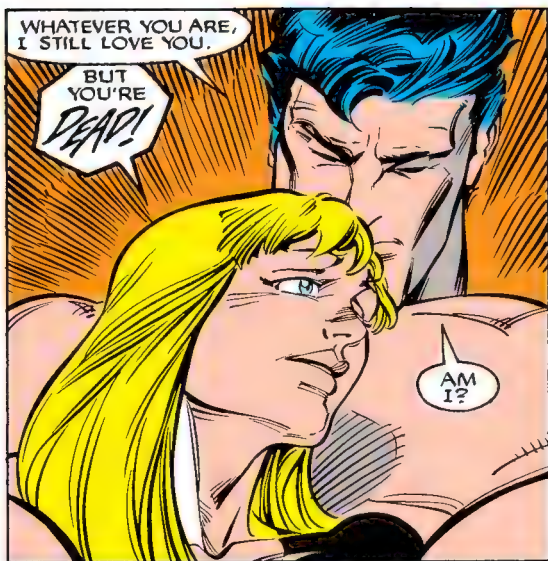
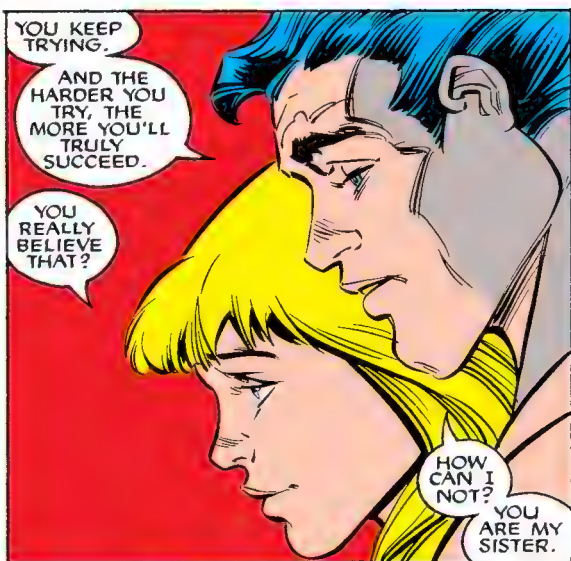


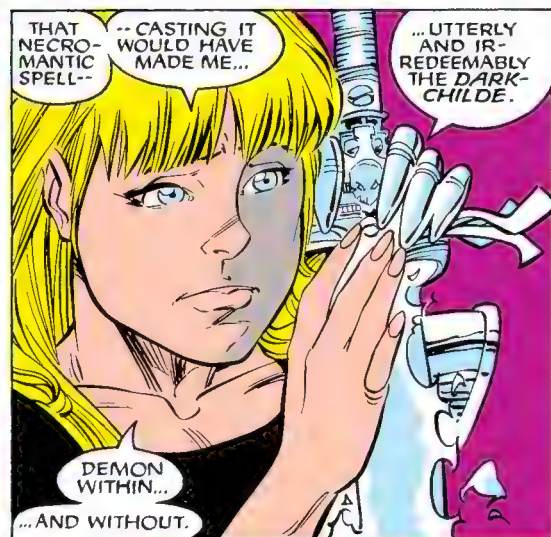
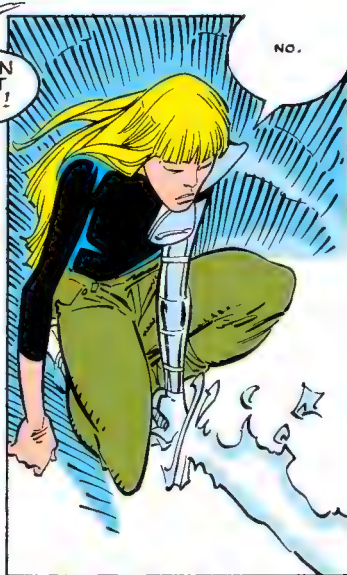
AND, ALMOST ON CUE...

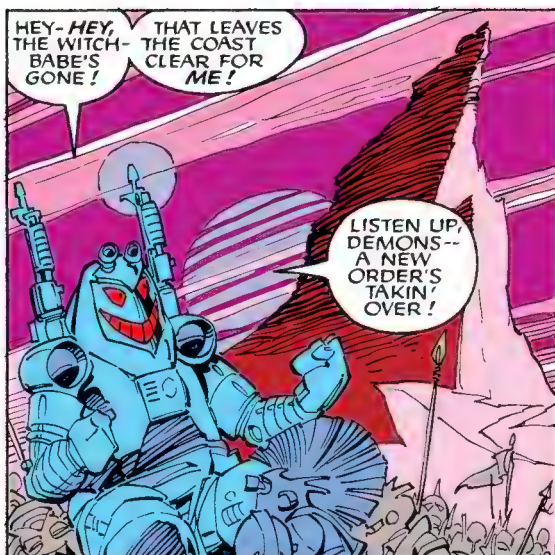
Ppy!











MARVEL®

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN



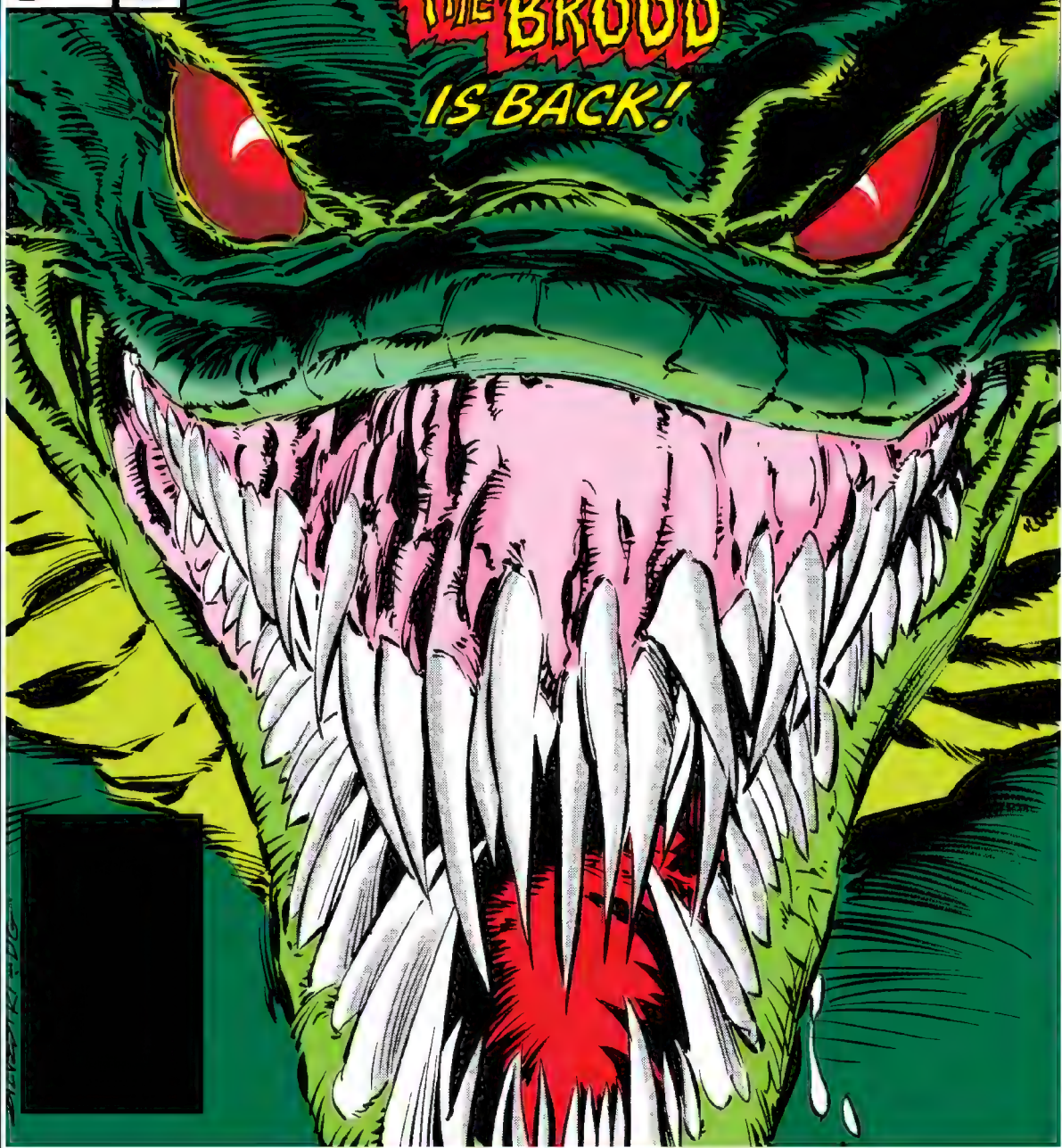
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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

**THE BROOD
IS BACK!**



...IN UPSTATE
NEW YORK...

...STORM AND WOLVERINE
FIGHT FOR THEIR LIVES
AGAINST A TRIO OF WORLD
WAR II SUPER HEROES
TURNED MURDERING
VIGILANTES...

...WHILE...



...IN EDINBURGH,
SCOTLAND...

...THEIR FELLOW X-MEN--
LONGSHOT, ROGUE,
PSYLOCKE AND DAZZLER
PIT STRENGTH AND SKILL
AGAINST ONE OF THE
TEAM'S OLDEST, MOST
POWERFUL FOES:

...JUGGERNAUT...

...WHILE...



NOT SO
LONG
AGO...

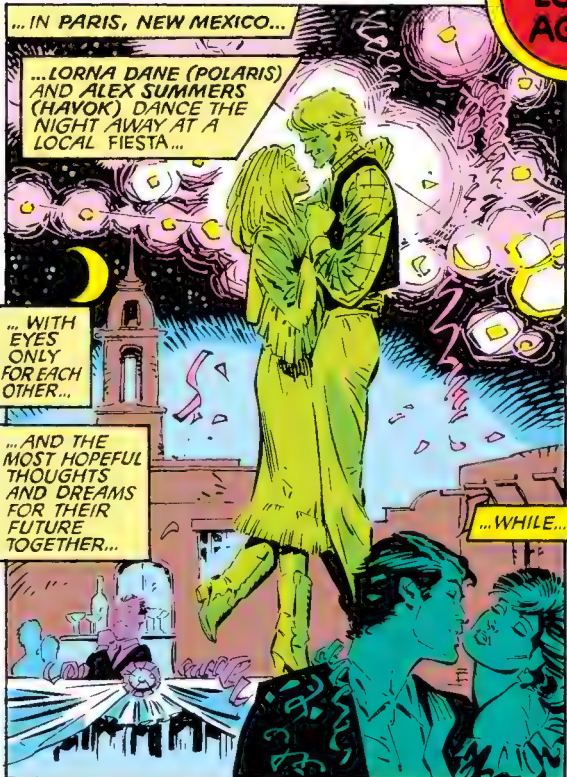
...IN PARIS, NEW MEXICO...

...LORNA DANE (POLARIS)
AND ALEX SUMMERS
(HAVOK) DANCE THE
NIGHT AWAY AT A
LOCAL FIESTA...

...WITH
EYES
ONLY
FOR EACH
OTHER...

...AND THE
MOST HOPEFUL
THOUGHTS
AND DREAMS
FOR THEIR
FUTURE
TOGETHER...

...WHILE...



...IN THE RIO DIABLO MOUNTAINS
THAT LINE THE HORIZON SOUTH
AND WEST OF PARIS...

IS THIS
PARADISE,
CRUISERS, OR
WHAT?

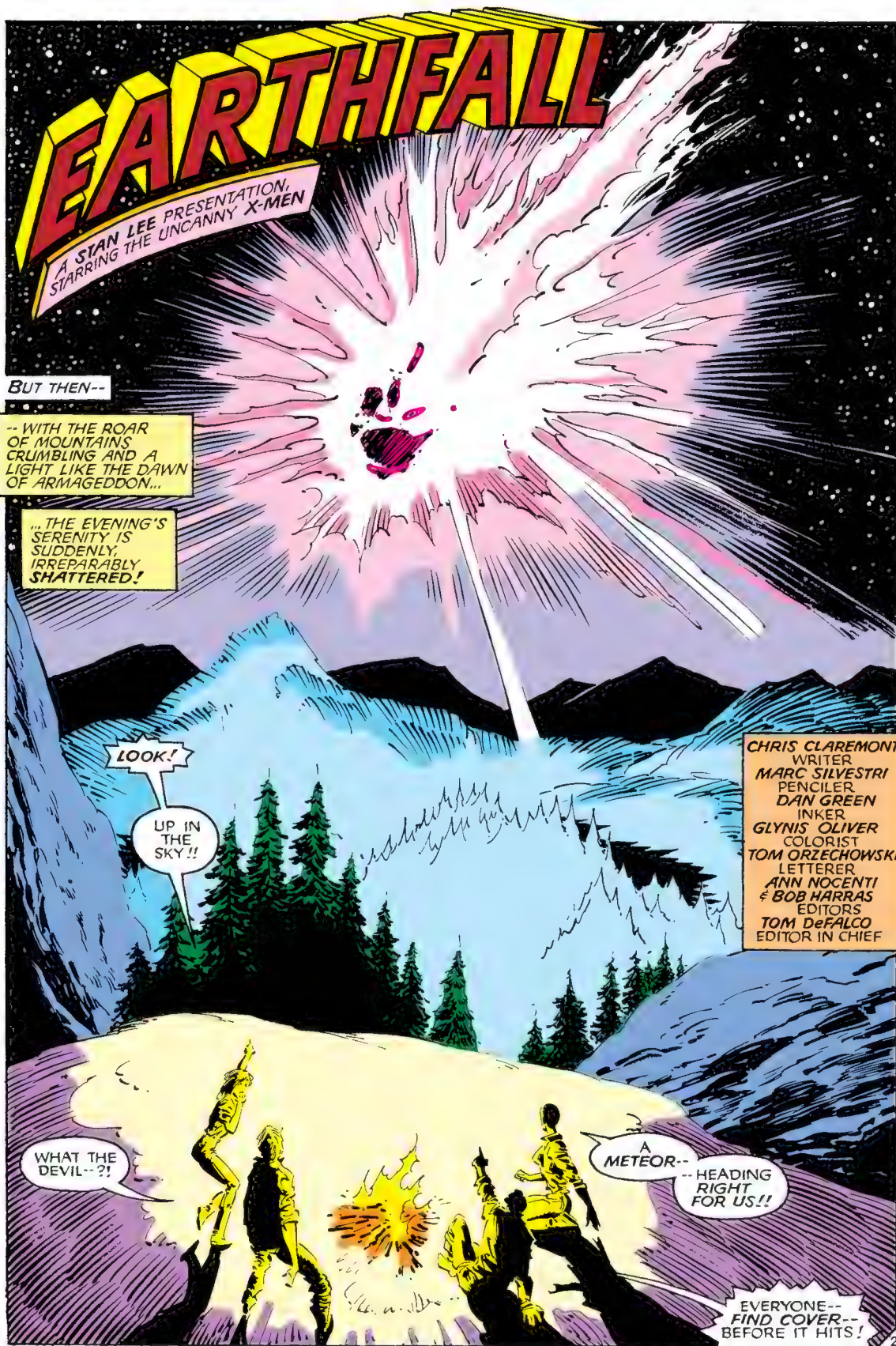
GOTTA
ADMIT,
SALLY, THIS
IS BEAUTIFUL
COUNTRY.

DARN
STRAIGHT.

MY JOB'D
DRIVE ME
CRAZY...

... IF I DIDN'T HAVE
PLACES LIKE THIS CLOSE
AT HAND TO ESCAPE TO.





BUT THEN--

-- WITH THE ROAR OF MOUNTAINS CRUMBLING AND A LIGHT LIKE THE DAWN OF ARMAGEDDON...

...THE EVENING'S SERENITY IS SUDDENLY, IRREPARABLY SHATTERED!

LOOK!

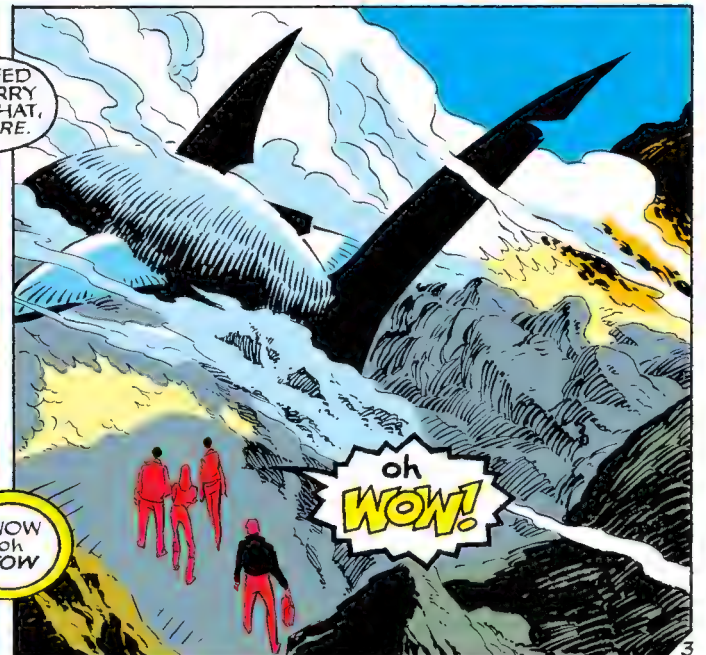
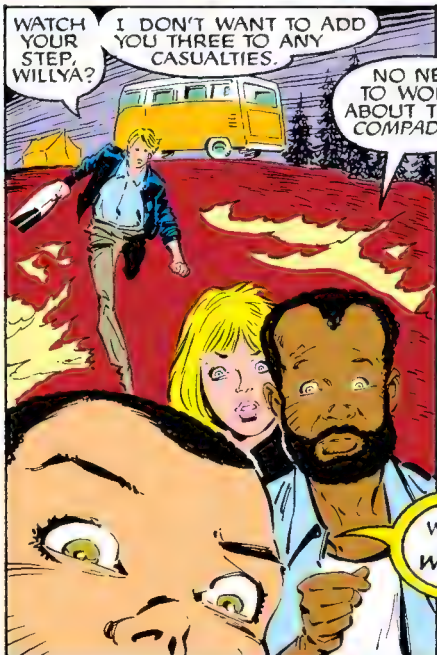
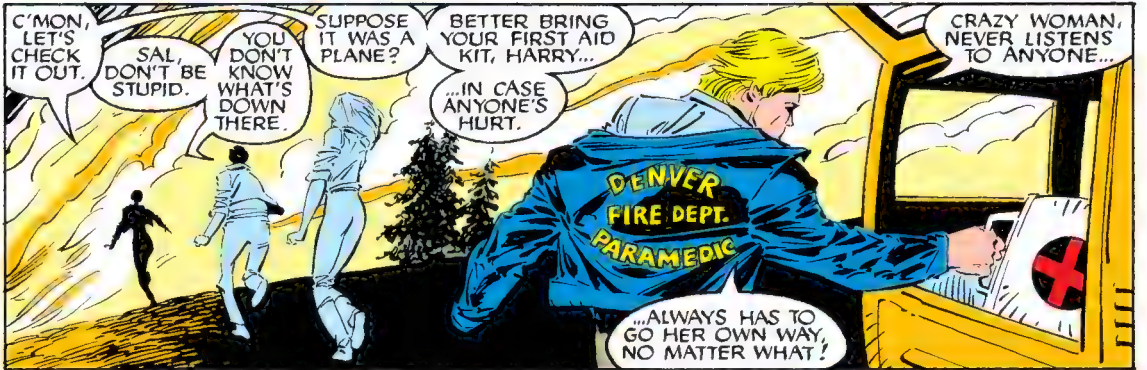
UP IN THE SKY!!

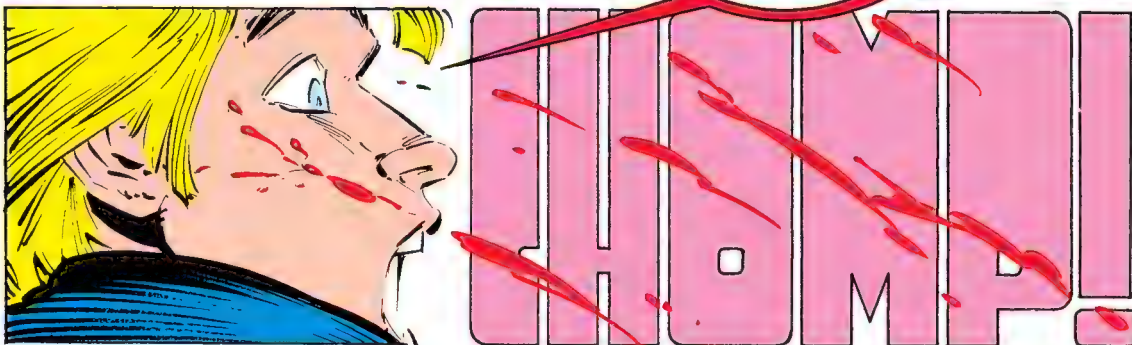
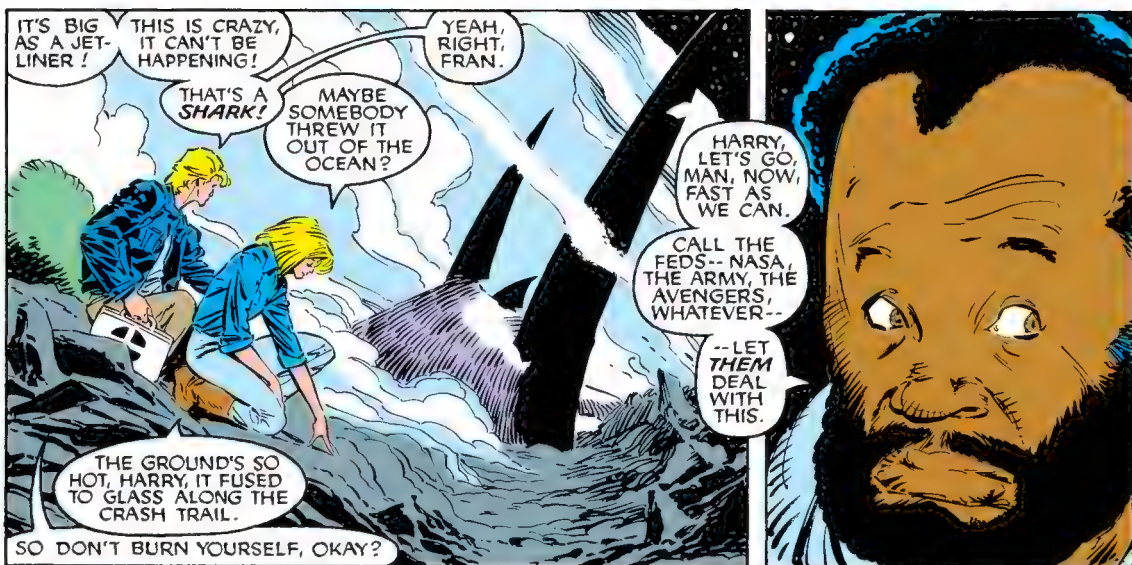
WHAT THE DEVIL--?!

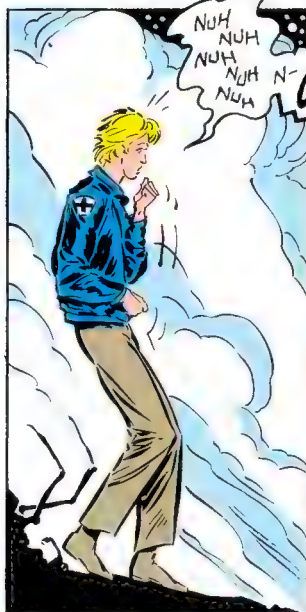
A METEOR--
--HEADING RIGHT FOR US!!

EVERYONE--
FIND COVER--
BEFORE IT HITS!

CHRIS CLAREMONT
WRITER
MARC SILVESTRI
PENCILER
DAN GREEN
INKER
GLYNIS OLIVER
COLORIST
TOM ORZECOWSKI
LETTERER
ANN NOCENTI
& BOB HARRAS
EDITORS
TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF



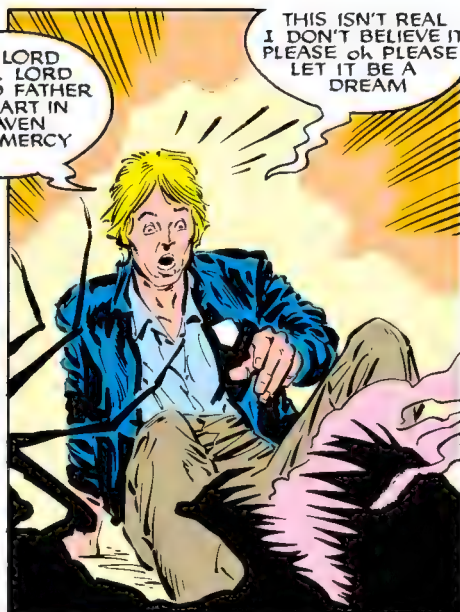




NUH
NUH
NUH
NUH
N-



OH!?!



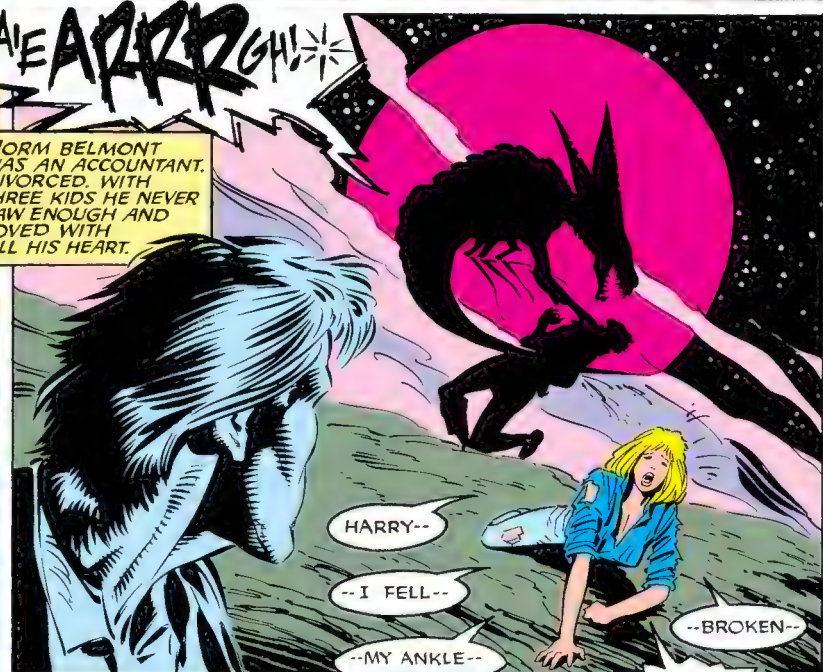
OH LORD
DEAR LORD
BLESSED FATHER
WHO ART IN
HEAVEN
HAVE MERCY

THIS ISN'T REAL
I DON'T BELIEVE IT
PLEASE OH PLEASE
LET IT BE A
DREAM



HARRAIEARRGH!

NORM BELMONT
WAS AN ACCOUNTANT.
DIVORCED. WITH
THREE KIDS HE NEVER
SAW ENOUGH AND
LOVED WITH
ALL HIS HEART.



HARRY--

--I FELL--

--MY ANKLE--

--BROKEN--



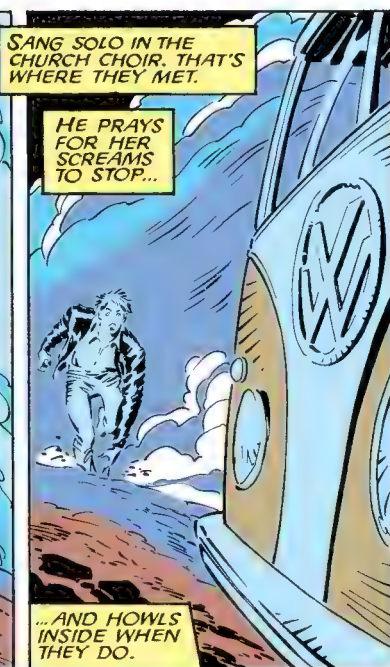
--I CAN'T
WALK!



FRAN MORROW.

FOR
PITY'S
SAKE--

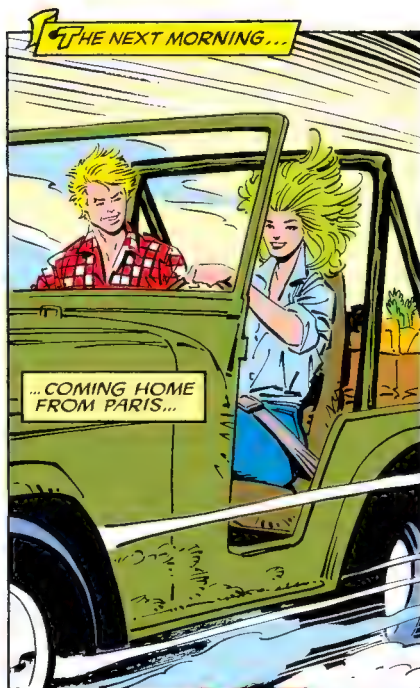
--HELP
ME!



SANG SOLO IN THE
CHURCH CHOIR. THAT'S
WHERE THEY MET.

HE PRAYS
FOR HER
SCREAMS
TO STOP...

...AND HOWLS
INSIDE WHEN
THEY DO.



THE NEXT MORNING...

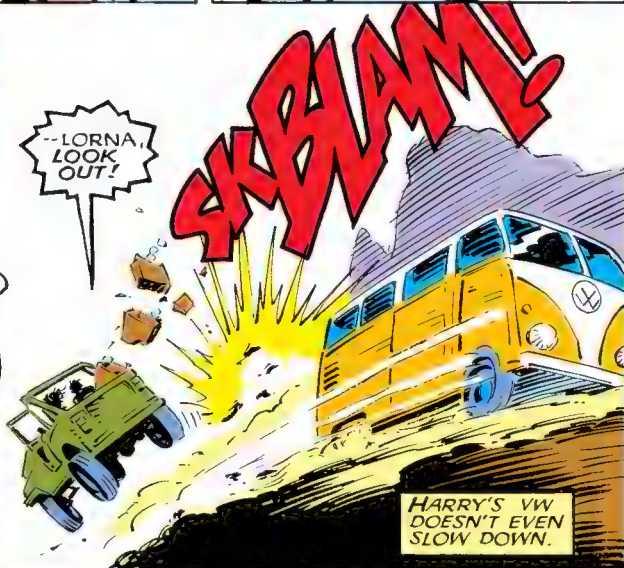
...COMING HOME
FROM PARIS...



SKRAM!

HOLY--?!

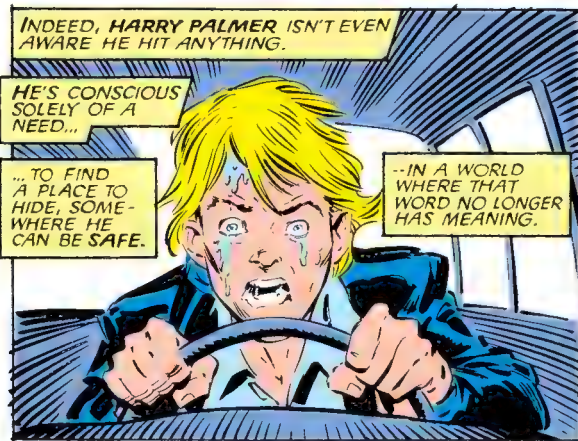
IS THAT
CLOWN
DRUNK OR
CRAZY
OR--?



--LORNA,
LOOK
OUT!

SKRAM!

HARRY'S VW
DOESN'T EVEN
SLOW DOWN.

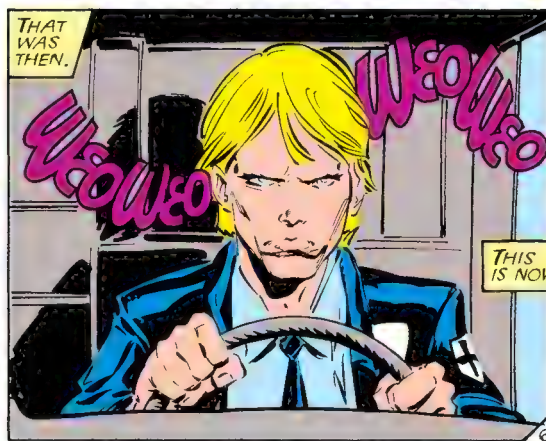


INDEED, HARRY PALMER ISN'T EVEN
AWARE HE HIT ANYTHING.

HE'S CONSCIOUS
SOLELY OF A
NEED...

...TO FIND
A PLACE TO
HIDE, SOME-
WHERE HE
CAN BE SAFE.

--IN A WORLD
WHERE THAT
WORD NO LONGER
HAS MEANING.

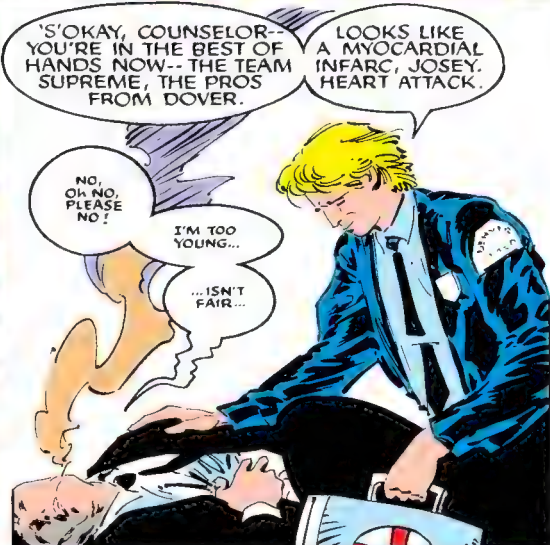
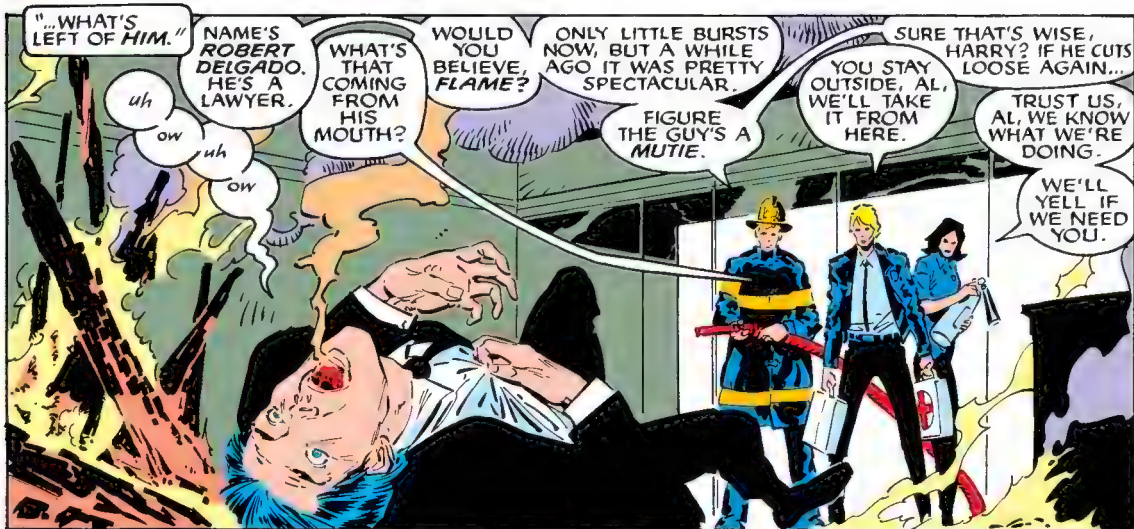


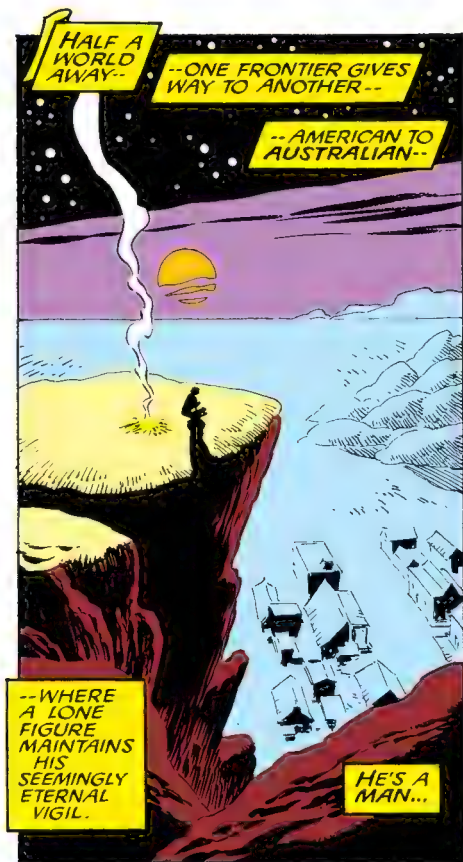
THAT WAS
THEN.

WOOO
WOOO
WOOO

THIS
IS NOW.







HALF A WORLD AWAY--

--ONE FRONTIER GIVES WAY TO ANOTHER--

-- AMERICAN TO AUSTRALIAN--

--WHERE A LONE FIGURE MAINTAINS HIS SEEMINGLY ETERNAL VIGIL.

HE'S A MAN...

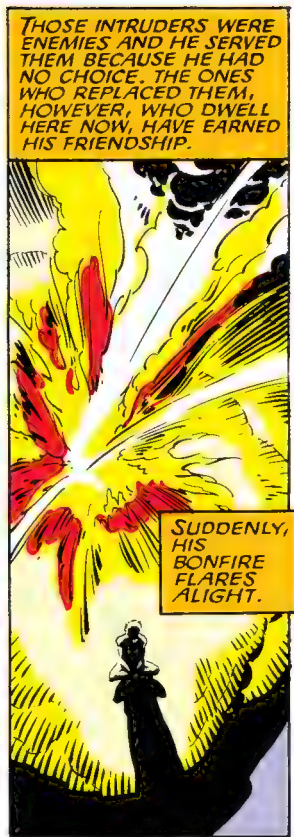


...ALTHOUGH HE SEEMS AS MUCH A PART OF THE ELEMENTAL LANDSCAPE AS THE AGE-OLD ROCK HE SITS UPON.

HIS TRUE NAME IS KNOWN TO NONE BUT HIM...

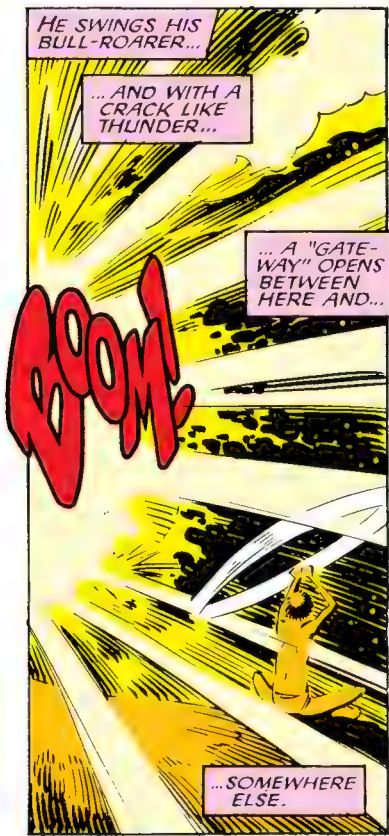
... BUT HE HAS ANOTHER, GIVEN HIM BY THE STRANGERS WHO FIRST CAME TO THIS SACRED PLACE.

IT IS GATEWAY.



THOSE INTRUDERS WERE ENEMIES AND HE SERVED THEM BECAUSE HE HAD NO CHOICE. THE ONES WHO REPLACED THEM, HOWEVER, WHO DWELL HERE NOW, HAVE EARNED HIS FRIENDSHIP.

SUDDENLY, HIS BONFIRE FLARES ALIGHT.



HE SWINGS HIS BULL-ROARER...

...AND WITH A CRACK LIKE THUNDER...

... A "GATEWAY" OPENS BETWEEN HERE AND...

...SOMEWHERE ELSE.



AND MADELYNE PRYOR STEPS THROUGH.

Blyrr

I KNOW GATEWAY'S OUR PAL...

...THAT IT'S OKAY TO TRUST HIM...



...BUT I'M A PILOT, I'D MUCH RATHER FLY FROM PLACE TO PLACE...

...THAN BE TELEPORTED.

...ok, WHAT'S THE USE!

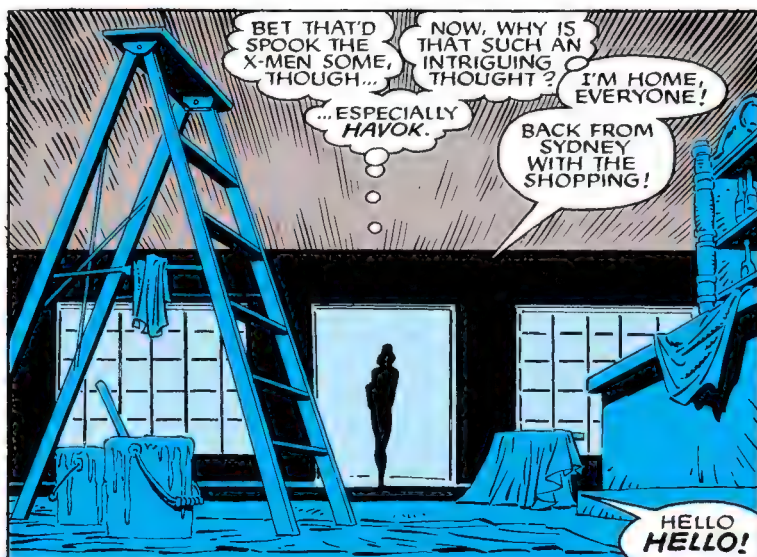
THANK YOU, SIR, FOR THE TRIP...



I MIGHT AS WELL BE TALKING TO THIS HILL.

I COULD BE STARK NAKED...

...AND THAT OLD MAN WOULDN'T BAT AN EYE.



BET THAT'D SPOOK THE X-MEN SOME, THOUGH...
...ESPECIALLY HAVOK.

NOW, WHY IS THAT SUCH AN INTRIGUING THOUGHT?

I'M HOME, EVERYONE!

BACK FROM SYDNEY WITH THE SHOPPING!

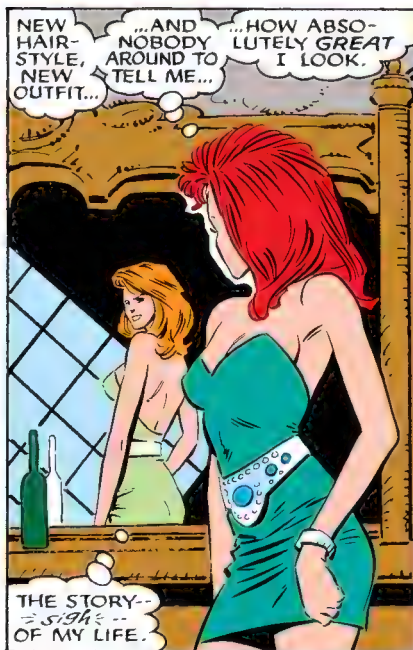
HELLO HELLO!



NO ANSWER.

PROBABLY NO X-MEN, EITHER.

TYPICAL.

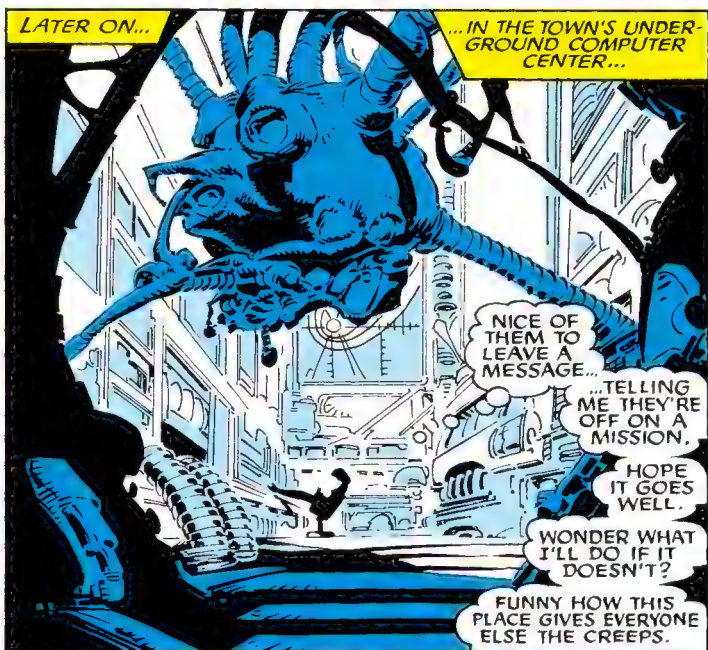


NEW HAIR-STYLE, NEW OUTFIT...

...AND NOBODY AROUND TO TELL ME...

...HOW ABSOLUTELY GREAT I LOOK.

THE STORY--
--SIGH--
OF MY LIFE.



LATER ON...

...IN THE TOWN'S UNDERGROUND COMPUTER CENTER...

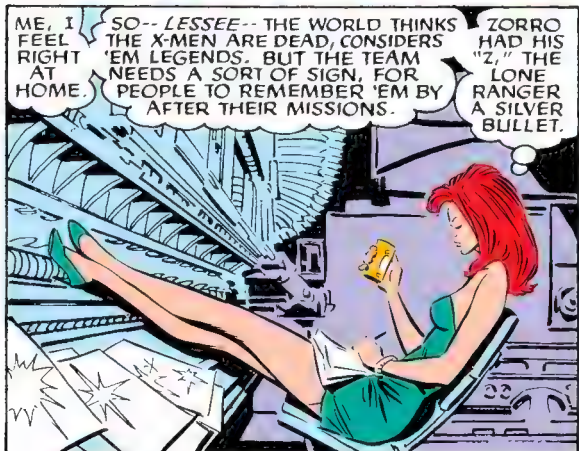
NICE OF THEM TO LEAVE A MESSAGE...

...TELLING ME THEY'RE OFF ON A MISSION.

HOPE IT GOES WELL.

WONDER WHAT I'LL DO IF IT DOESN'T?

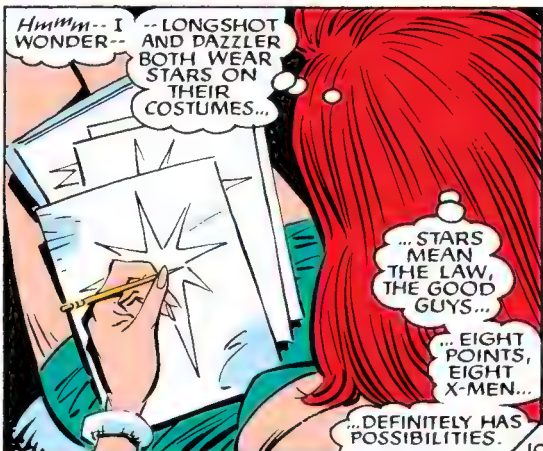
FUNNY HOW THIS PLACE GIVES EVERYONE ELSE THE CREEPS.



ME, I FEEL RIGHT AT HOME.

SO-- LESSEE-- THE WORLD THINKS THE X-MEN ARE DEAD, CONSIDERS 'EM LEGENDS. BUT THE TEAM NEEDS A SORT OF SIGN, FOR PEOPLE TO REMEMBER 'EM BY AFTER THEIR MISSIONS.

ZORRO HAD HIS "Z," THE LONE RANGER A SILVER BULLET.



Hmm-- I WONDER--

--LONGSHOT AND DAZZLER BOTH WEAR STARS ON THEIR COSTUMES...

...STARS MEAN THE LAW, THE GOOD GUYS...

...EIGHT POINTS, EIGHT X-MEN...

...DEFINITELY HAS POSSIBILITIES.

AMAZING SET-UP. THIS SYSTEMS SO SOPHISTICATED, I CAN TAP INTO ANY COMPUTER-COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK ON EARTH...

...YET SO USER-FRIENDLY IT LITERALLY TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE IT.

AWFULLY CONSIDERATE--

...FOR SOMETHING DESIGNED BY A BAND OF THIEVES AND CUTTHROAT KILLERS.

MAYBE TOO CONSIDERATE--

--WHAT THE?!?

A TV INTERVIEW-- IT'S SCOTT!

AND BESIDE HIM -- THAT WOMAN-- SHE'S ME!?!?

NO!

IT'S MARVEL GIRL-- JEAN GREY-- THE WOMAN HE LOVED BEFORE HE MARRIED ME--

-- BUT SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!

AND THE WAY THEY'RE STANDING, RELATING TO EACH OTHER-- NO WONDER HE LEFT ME-- AND OUR BABY--

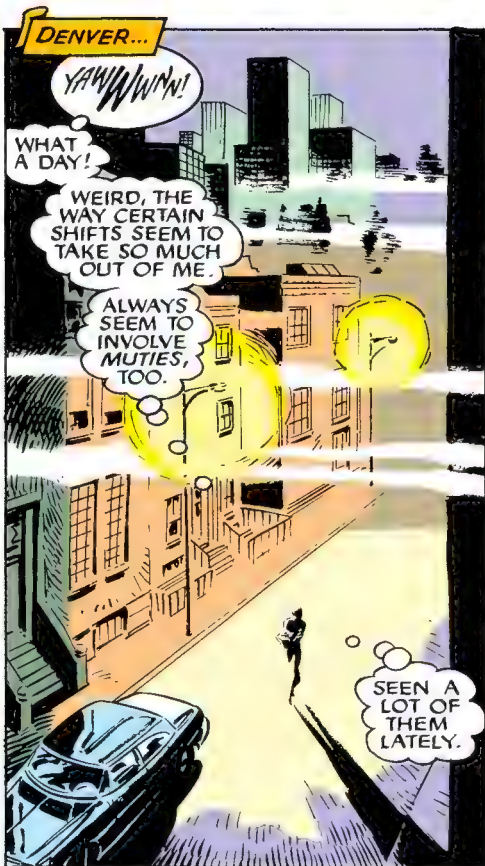
-- IT'S CLEAR AS DAY...

... HE LOVES HER!

THE WAY HE NEVER LOVED ME!!

KRAK!

SKRAM!



DENVER...

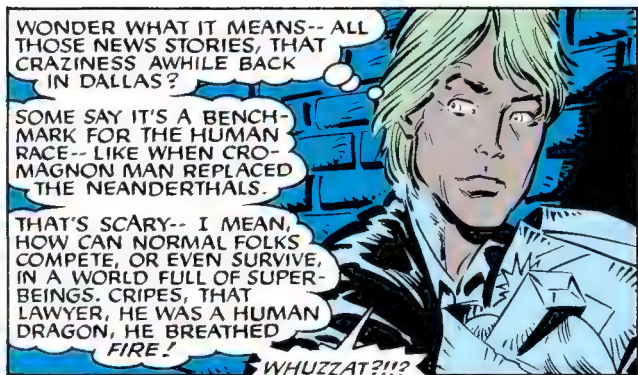
YAWN/WINN!

WHAT A DAY!

WEIRD, THE WAY CERTAIN SHIFTS SEEM TO TAKE SO MUCH OUT OF ME.

ALWAYS SEEM TO INVOLVE MUTIES, TOO.

SEEN A LOT OF THEM LATELY.

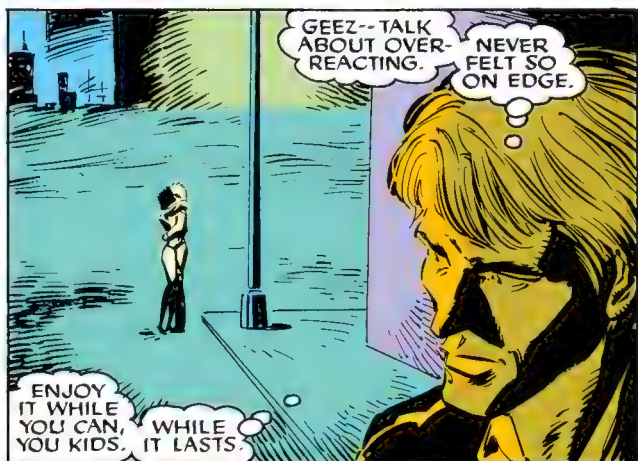


WONDER WHAT IT MEANS-- ALL THOSE NEWS STORIES, THAT CRAZINESS AWHILE BACK IN DALLAS?

SOME SAY IT'S A BENCHMARK FOR THE HUMAN RACE-- LIKE WHEN CROMAGNON MAN REPLACED THE NEANDERTHALS.

THAT'S SCARY-- I MEAN, HOW CAN NORMAL FOLKS COMPETE, OR EVEN SURVIVE, IN A WORLD FULL OF SUPER-BEINGS. CRIPES, THAT LAWYER, HE WAS A HUMAN DRAGON, HE BREATHED FIRE!

WHUZZAT?!?!?

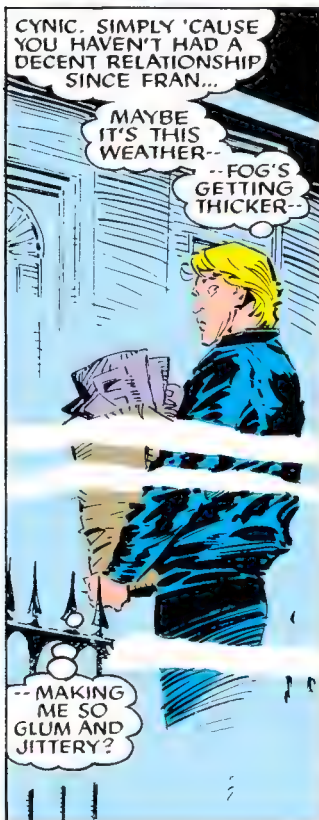


GEEZ-- TALK ABOUT OVER-REACTING.

NEVER FELT SO ON EDGE.

ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN, YOU KIDS.

WHILE IT LASTS.

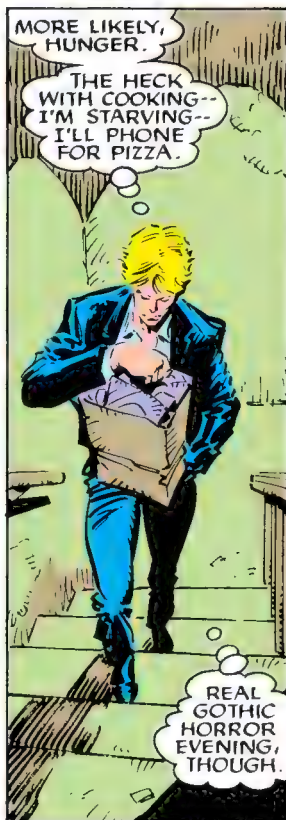


CYNIC. SIMPLY 'CAUSE YOU HAVEN'T HAD A DECENT RELATIONSHIP SINCE FRAN...

MAYBE IT'S THIS WEATHER--

-- FOG'S GETTING THICKER--

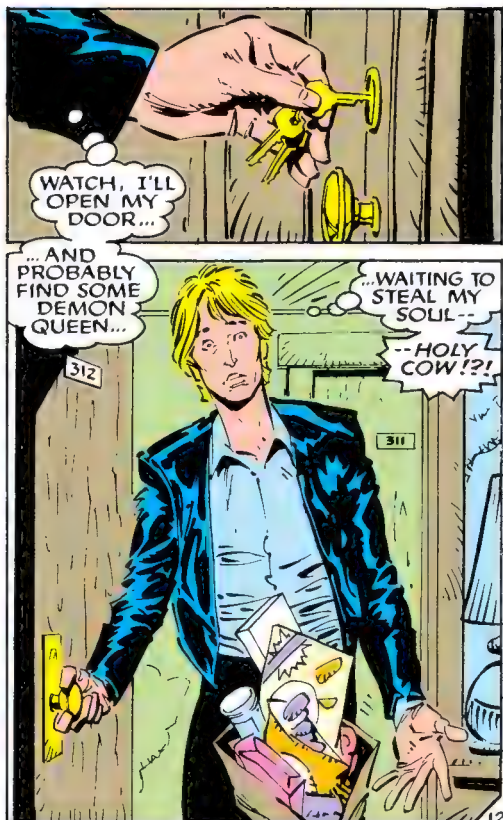
-- MAKING ME SO GLUM AND JITTERY?



MORE LIKELY, HUNGER.

THE HECK WITH COOKING-- I'M STARVING-- I'LL PHONE FOR PIZZA.

REAL GOTHIC HORROR EVENING, THOUGH.

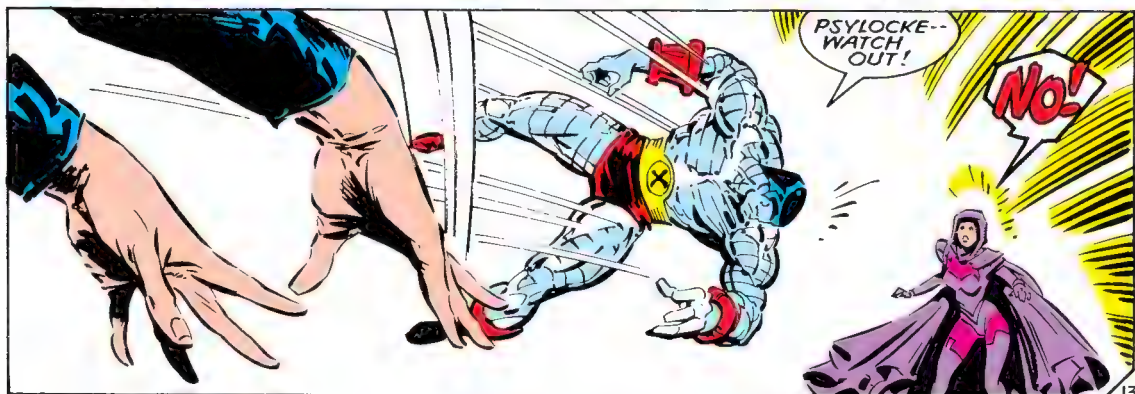
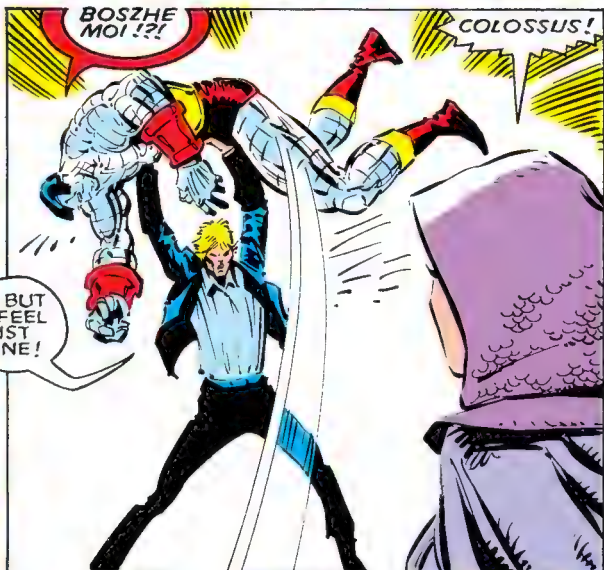
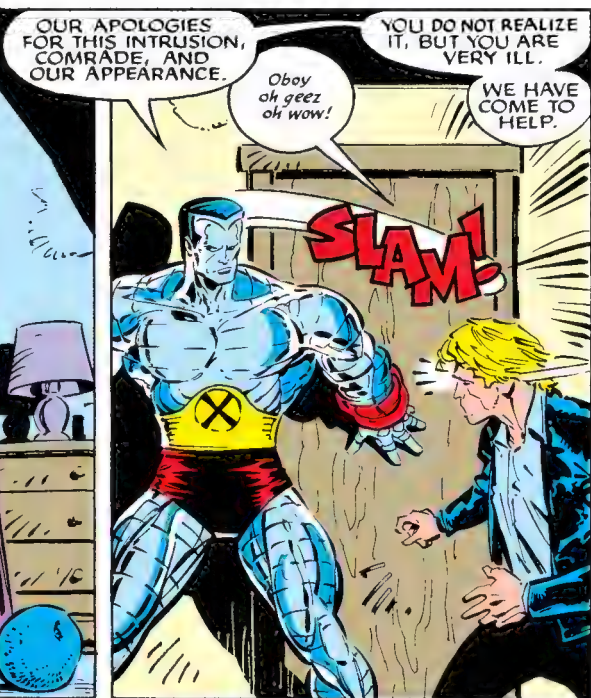
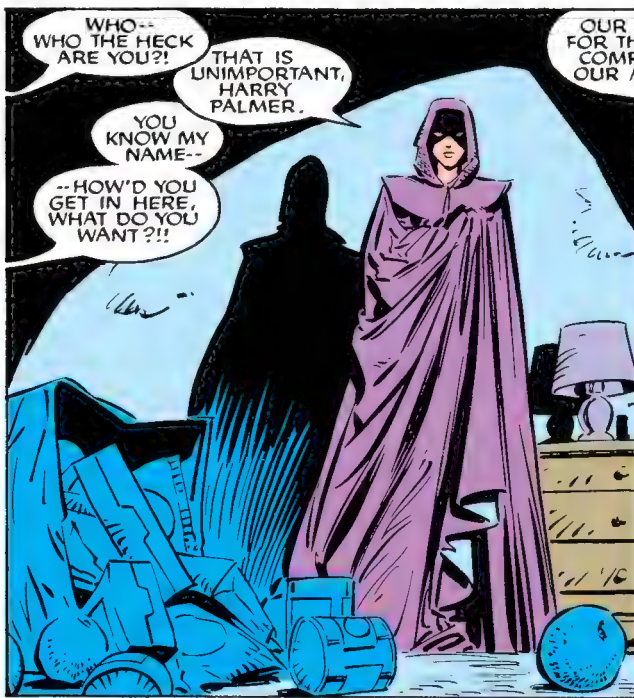


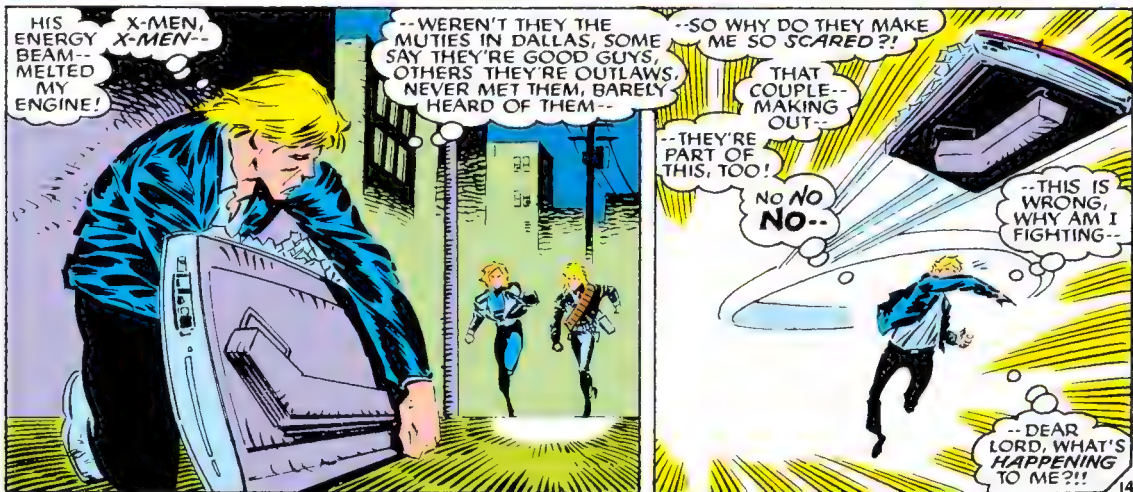
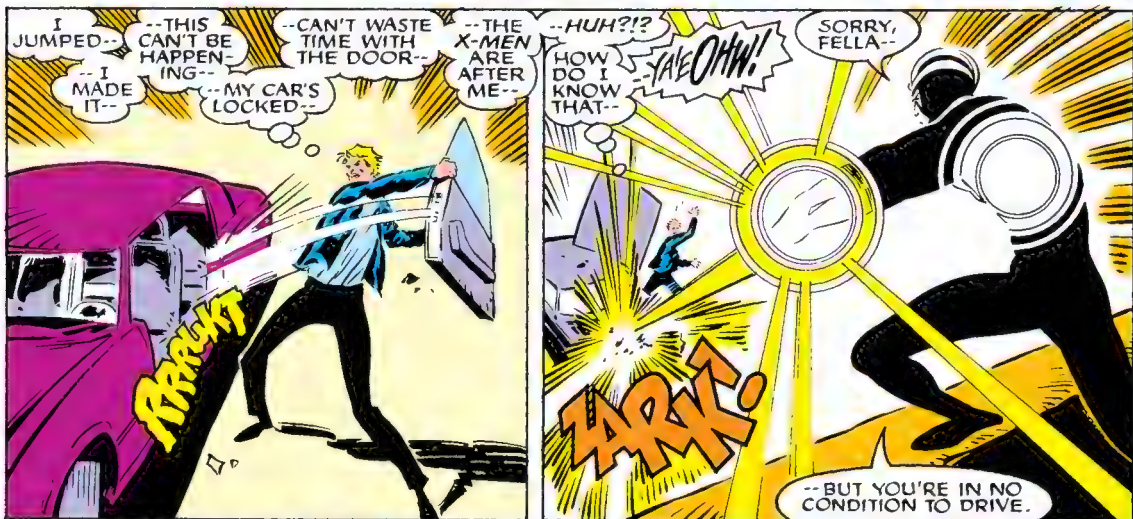
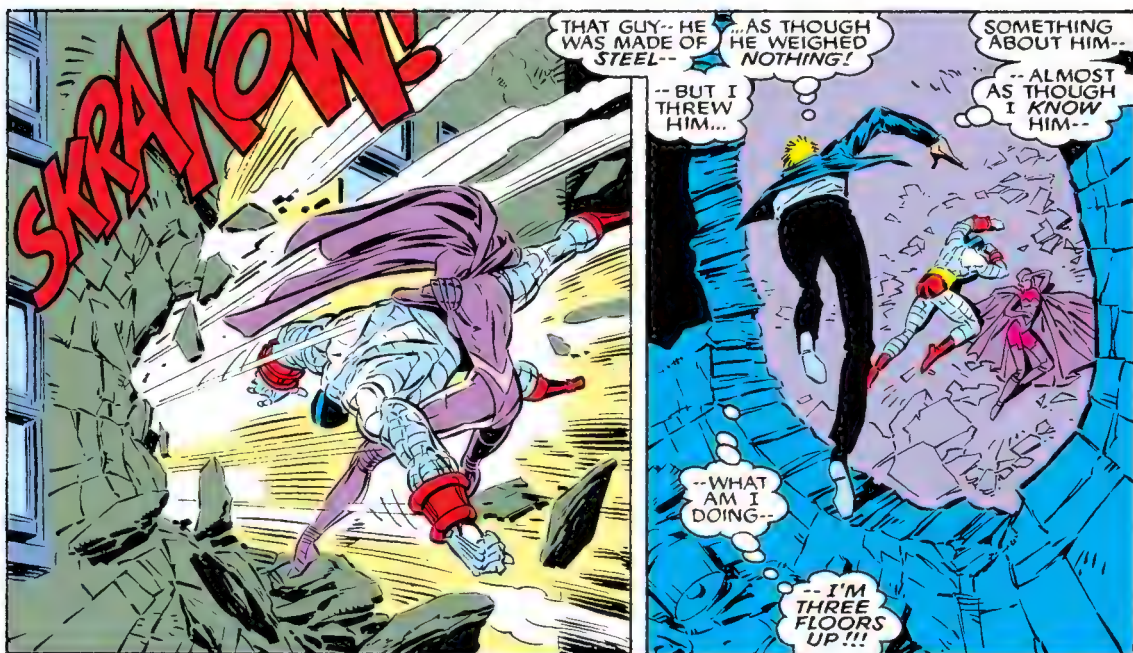
WATCH, I'LL OPEN MY DOOR...

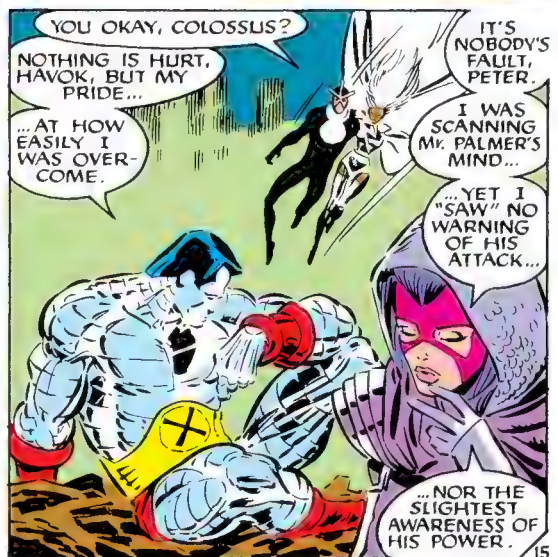
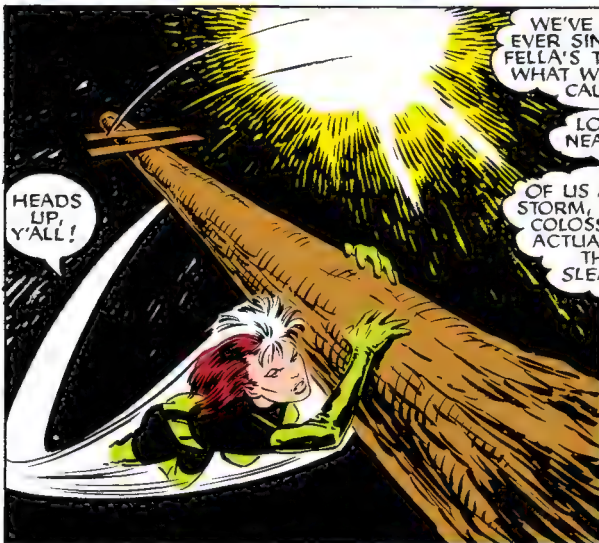
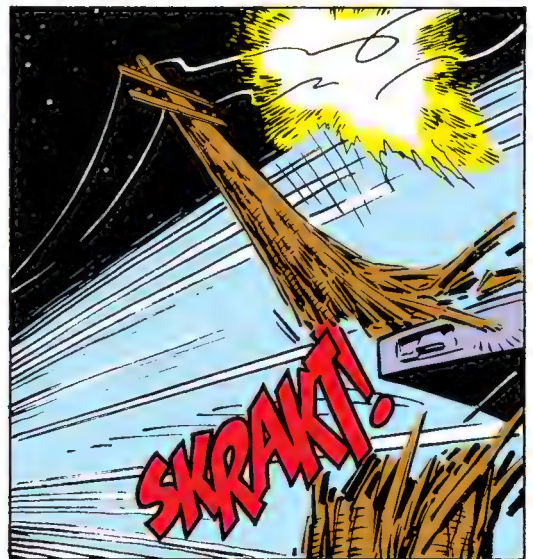
... AND PROBABLY FIND SOME DEMON QUEEN...

...WAITING TO STEAL MY SOUL--

-- HOLY COW?!?









YOU GOT SLAMMED PRETTY HARD, PSYLOCKE--!

NOT TO MENTION THAT FALL!

FORTUNATE I DECIDED TO EXCHANGE MY OLD COSTUME... FOR THIS SUIT OF ARMOR.

IT ABSORBED THE BRUNT OF BOTH IMPACTS.

IS MR. PALMER A MUTANT, STORM, LIKE US?

NORMAL EARTH PEOPLE AREN'T USUALLY SO STRONG.

THAT'S THE BROOD IN HIM.



IF SO WOLVERINE, THE MAN HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF IT.

MY FRIENDS-- COULD LONGSHOT BE RIGHT? ARE WE MAKING A TERRIBLE MISTAKE, BY HOUNDING AN INNOCENT MAN?

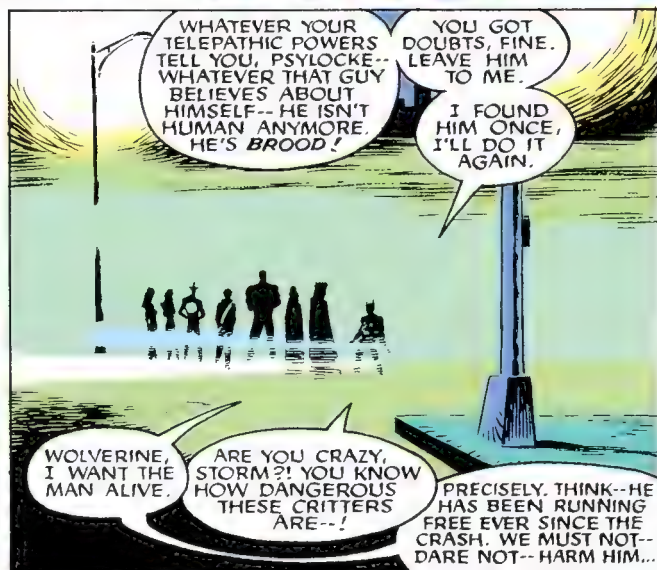
TRUST ME, DARLIN'.



PALMER WAS INFECTED AT THE CRASH SITE IN NEW MEXICO-- I SPOTTED THAT THE MOMENT I TAGGED HIS SCENT.

AN OLD SCENT, WOLVERINE. CAN YOU TRULY BE CERTAIN?

I'M CERTAIN.



WHATEVER YOUR TELEPATHIC POWERS TELL YOU, PSYLOCKE-- WHATEVER THAT GUY BELIEVES ABOUT HIMSELF-- HE ISN'T HUMAN ANYMORE. HE'S BROOD!

YOU GOT DOUBTS, FINE. LEAVE HIM TO ME.

I FOUND HIM ONCE, I'LL DO IT AGAIN.

WOLVERINE, I WANT THE MAN ALIVE.

ARE YOU CRAZY, STORM?! YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THESE CRITTERS ARE--!

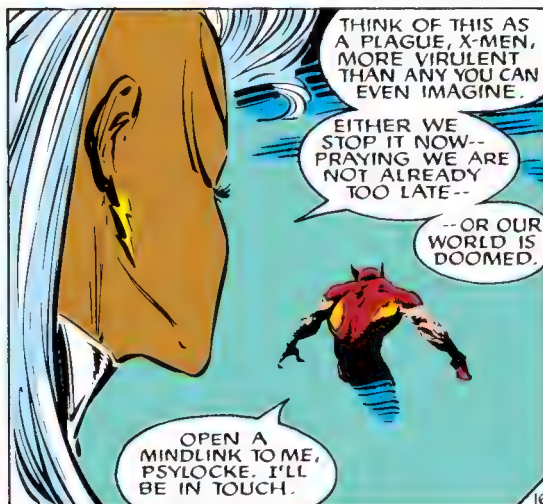
PRECISELY. THINK-- HE HAS BEEN RUNNING FREE EVER SINCE THE CRASH. WE MUST NOT-- DARE NOT-- HARM HIM...



...UNTIL WE HAVE LEARNED IF HE HAS IMPLANTED ANY OTHERS WITH BROOD EGGS...

...AND, IF SO, WHO THEY ARE.

THEN, WE WILL DEAL WITH THEM ALL.

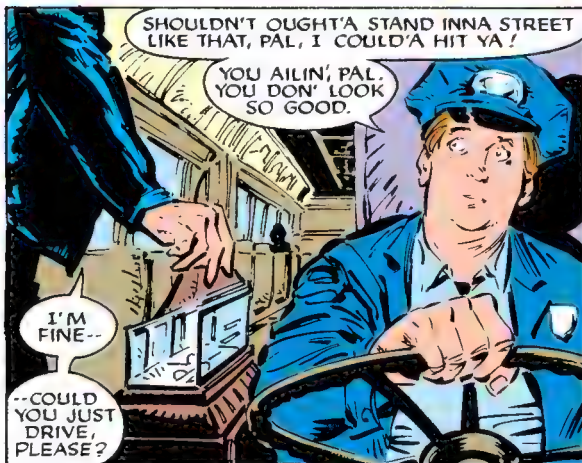
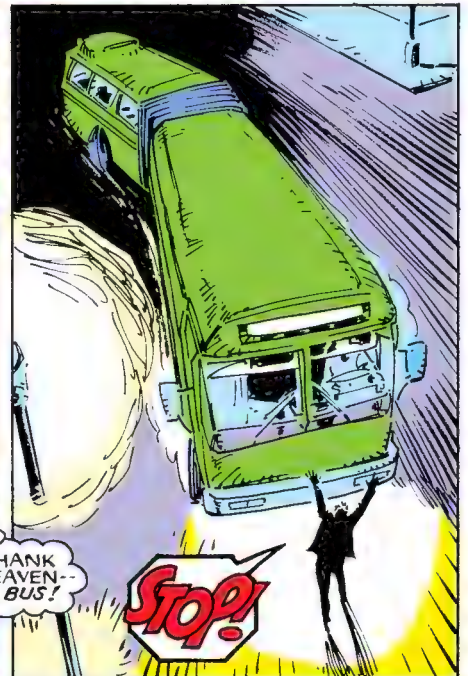
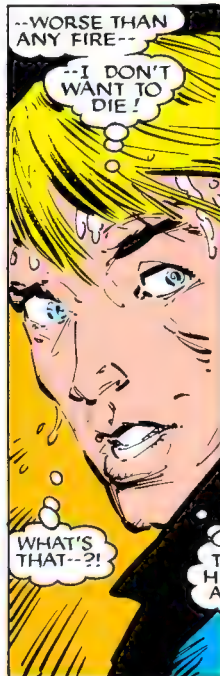
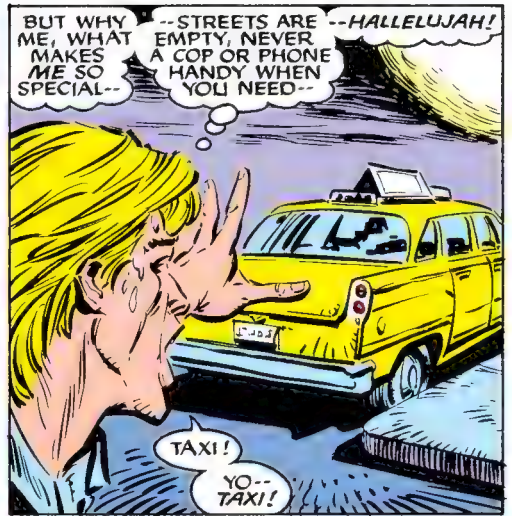
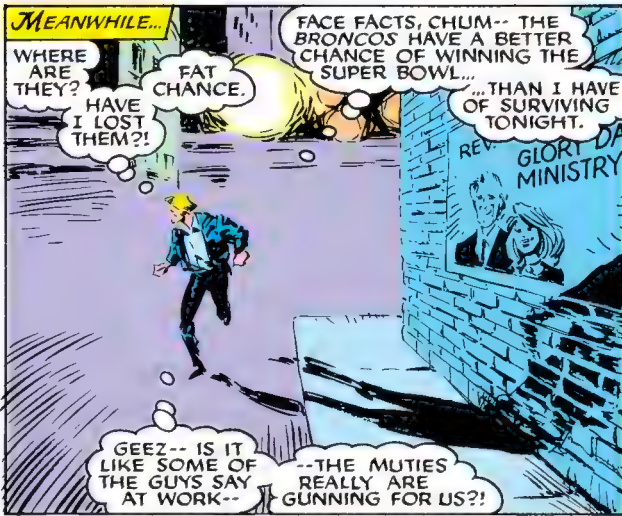


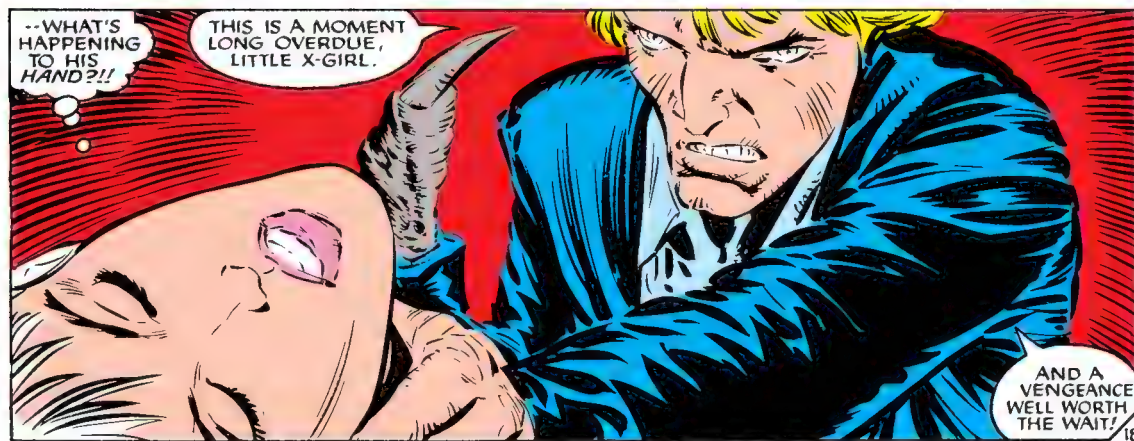
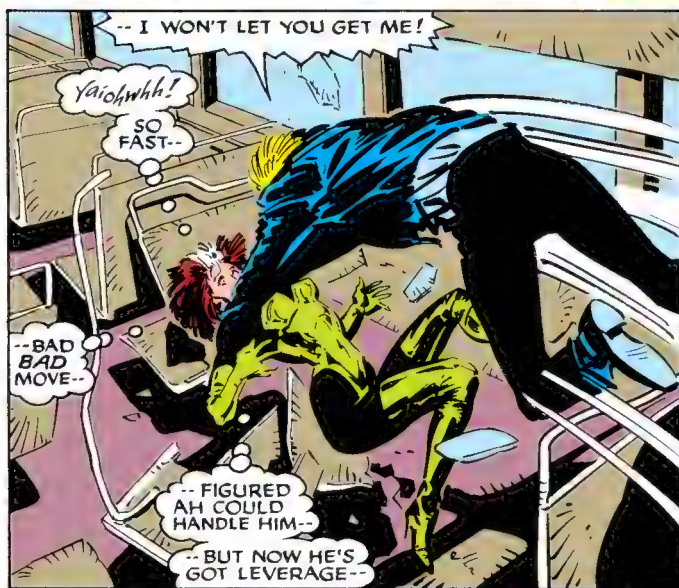
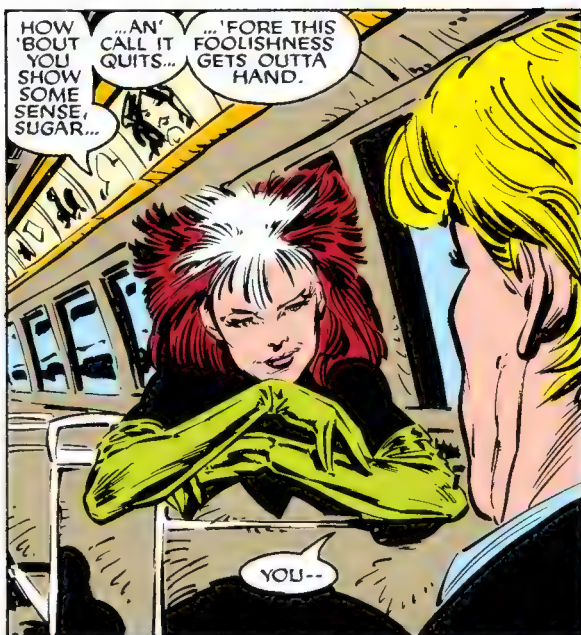
THINK OF THIS AS A PLAGUE, X-MEN, MORE VIRULENT THAN ANY YOU CAN EVEN IMAGINE.

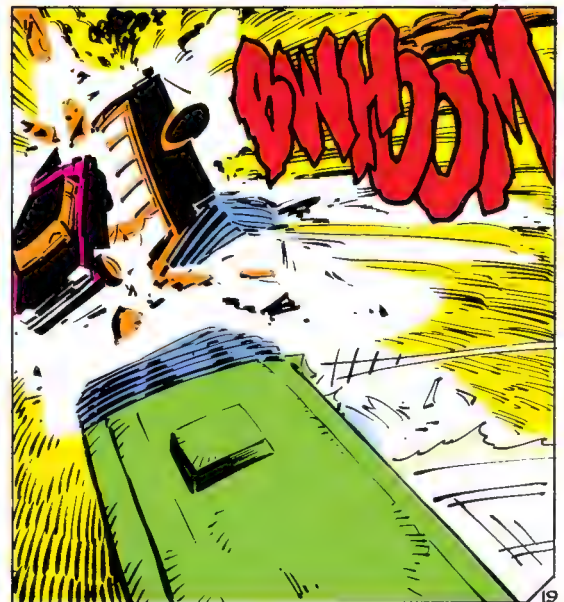
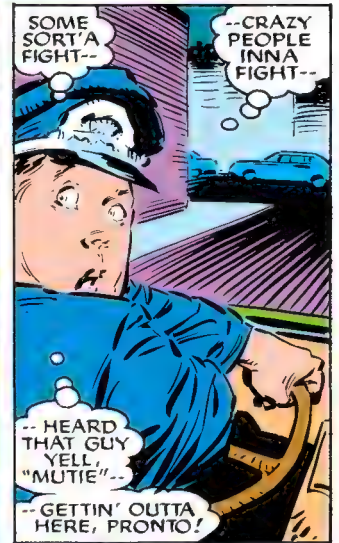
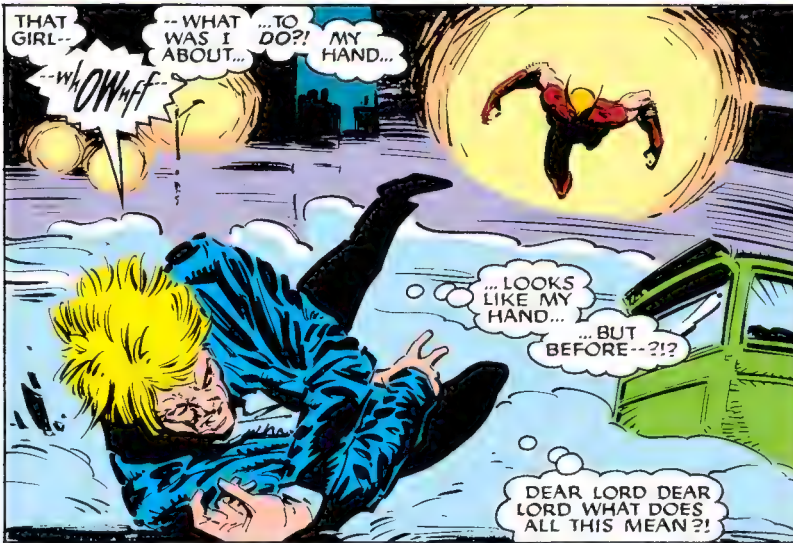
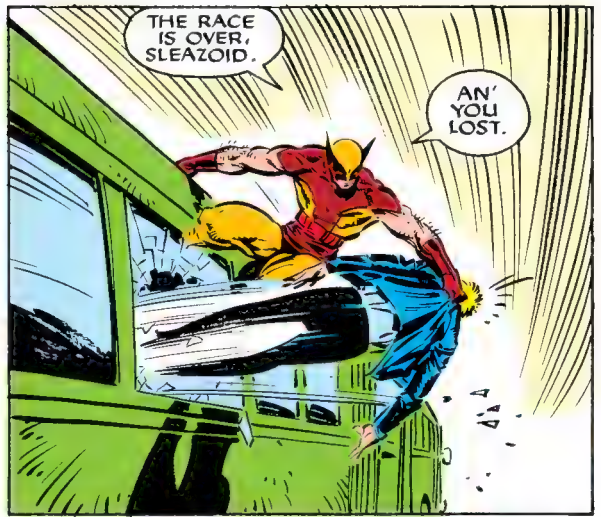
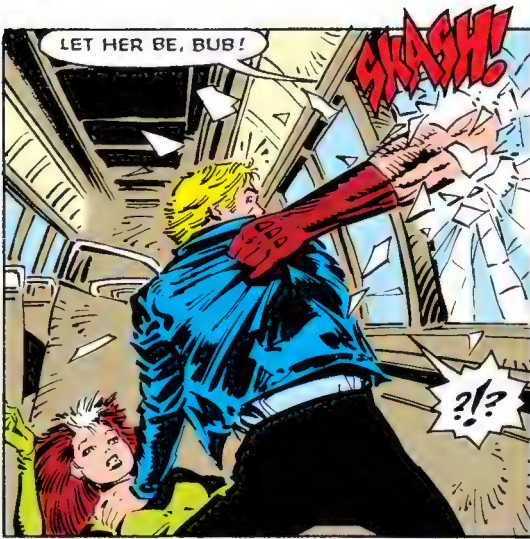
EITHER WE STOP IT NOW-- PRAYING WE ARE NOT ALREADY TOO LATE--

--OR OUR WORLD IS DOOMED.

OPEN A MINDLINK TO ME, PSYLOCKE. I'LL BE IN TOUCH.







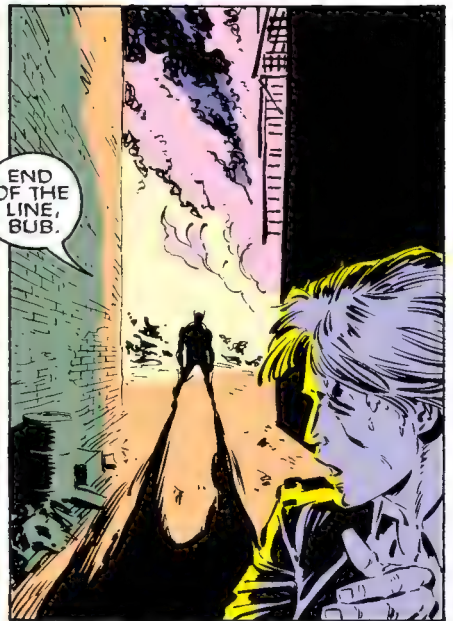


BACK OF THE BUS--
-- ON FIRE--
-- GIRL WAS INSIDE--

-- NO HOPE FOR HER--



-- NONE FOR ME.



END OF THE LINE, BUB.



SMACK!



YOU GOT ANY BELIEFS...

...NOW'S THE TIME...

...TO MAKE YOUR PEACE WITH 'EM.



WOLVERINE!

WHERE'S THE DRIVER?

Hah--
HOT-FOOTING IT DOWN THE STREET.

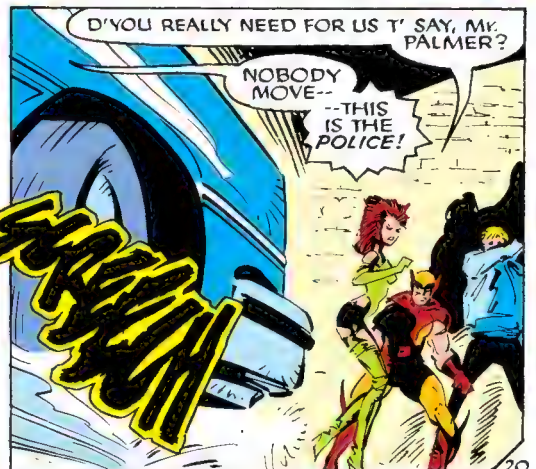
NOT EVEN SCRATCHED, LOOKS LIKE.



WISH AH COULD SAY THE SAME.

LEAVE THE FELLA BE, PARTNER, 'TIL PSYLOCKE'S DONE.

AND WHAT THEN?!

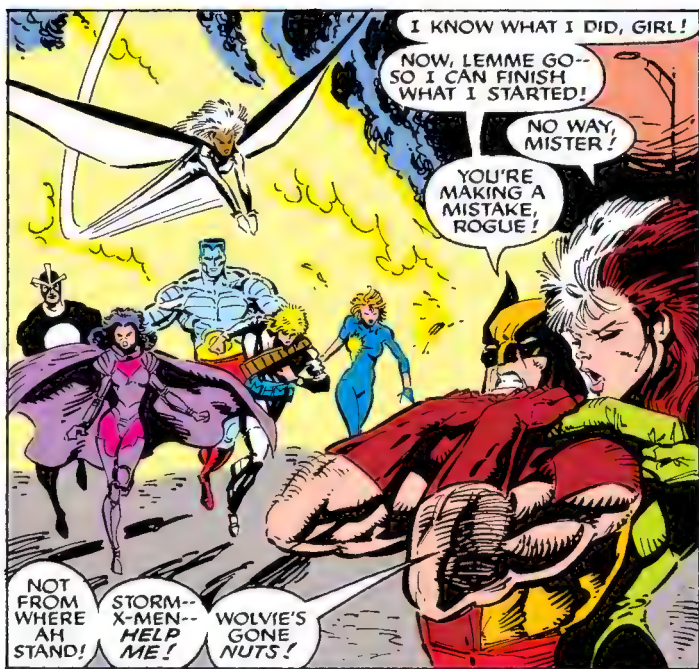


D'YOU REALLY NEED FOR US T' SAY, MY PALMER?

NOBODY MOVE--

--THIS IS THE POLICE!





I KNOW WHAT I DID, GIRL!

NOW, LET ME GO--
SO I CAN FINISH
WHAT I STARTED!

NO WAY,
MISTER!

YOU'RE
MAKING A
MISTAKE,
ROGUE!

NOT
FROM
WHERE
AH
STAND!

STORM--
X-MEN--
HELP
ME!

WOLVIE'S
GONE
NUTS!



NO--
NO, HE
HASN'T!

I CAN SEE
IT IN HIS
THOUGHTS--

--THOSE HE
ATTACKED.
THEY **AREN'T**
POLICE
OFFICERS!

THEY'RE
BROOD!



THEY
AREN'T
THE
ONLY
ONES,
X-MEN.

WE'RE
ALL
OF US
BROOD
HERE.

AND SOON,
OLD ENEMIES--
VERY SOON--



YOU
WILL BE,
TOO!

NEXT
DAWN of BLOOD

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN®

NOW ON SALE
TWICE A MONTH



SILVESTRI
& GREEN

A BACK-
ALLEY...

... IN DOWNTOWN
DENVER, COLORADO...

WE'RE
ALL OF US
EXOD
HERE,
X-MEN.

Uh,
GUYS--

--ARE
WE IN
TROUBLE
???

AND SOON,
OLD ENEMIES--
VERY SOON--

YOU
WILL BE,
TOO!



STAN LEE
PRESENTS

DAWN OF BLOOD

STARRING THE UNCANNY X-MEN

CRIPES--
THEY GOT
SUPER-
POWERS!

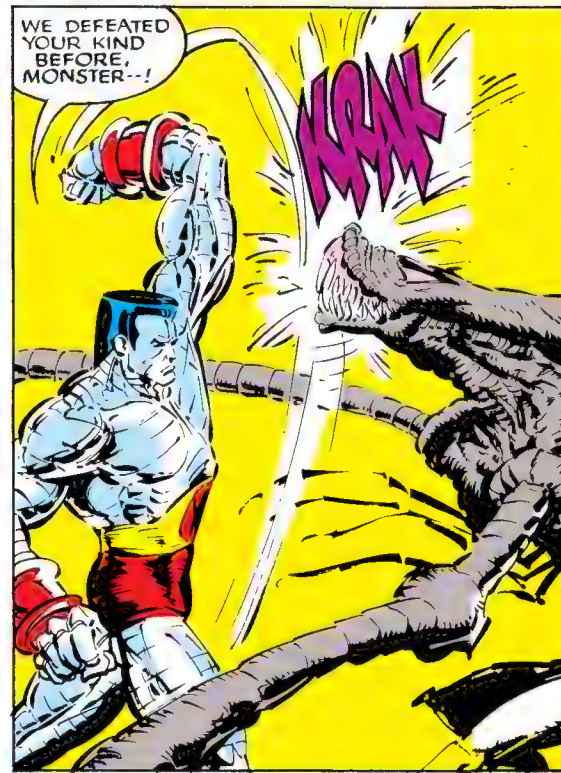
DAZZLER,
HONEY-CHILE,
AH, JUST
LOVE...

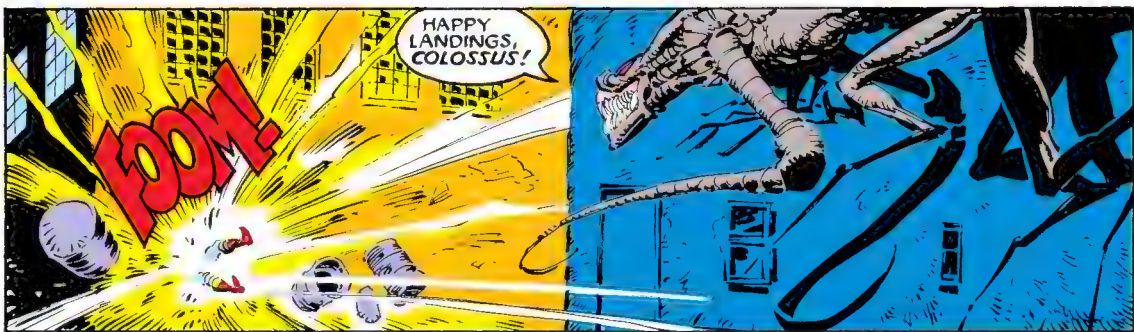
...YOUR GIFT
FOR UNDER-
STATEMENT!

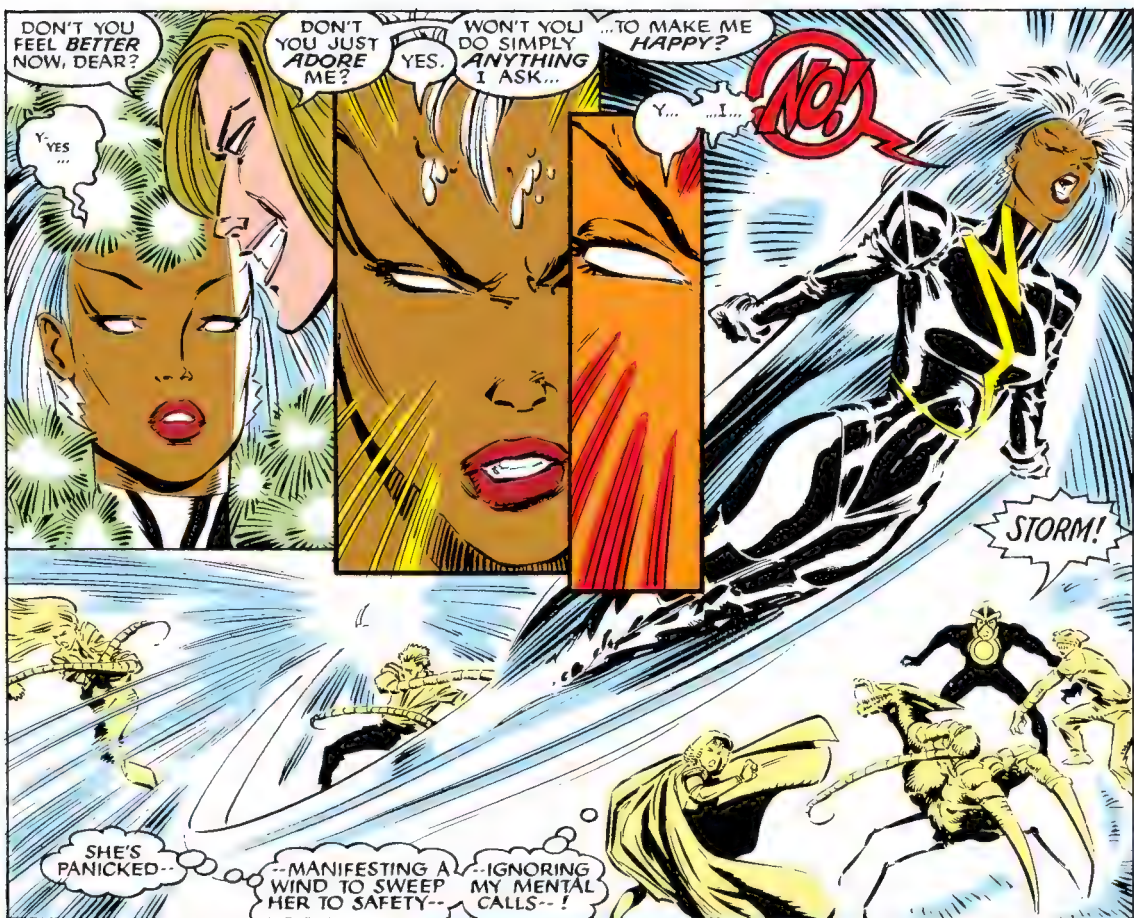
KRAM!

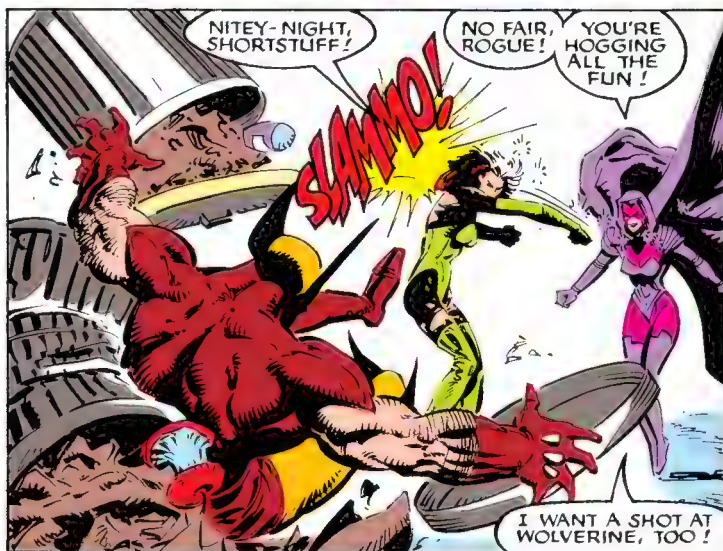
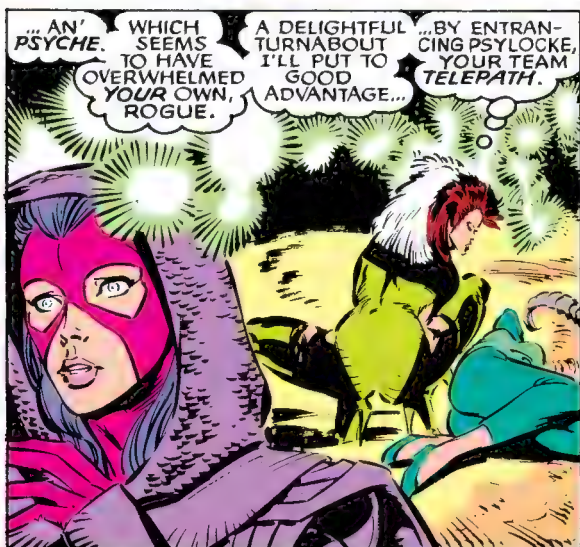
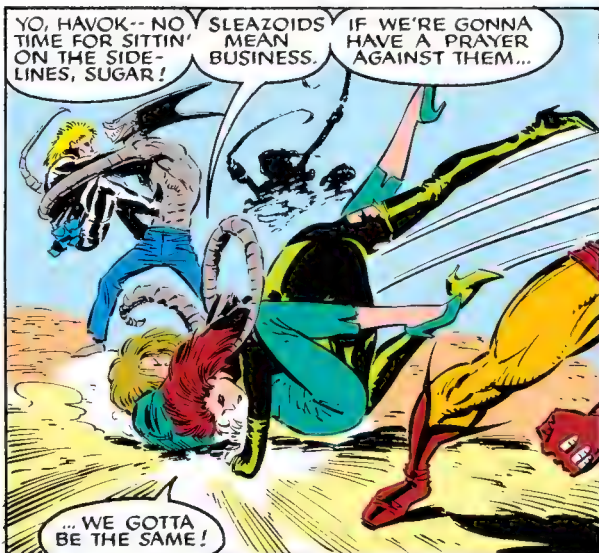
LOOK
OUT!

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PENCILER
DAN GREEN
INKER
TOM ORZECOWSKI
LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER
COLORIST
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EDITOR IN CHIEF

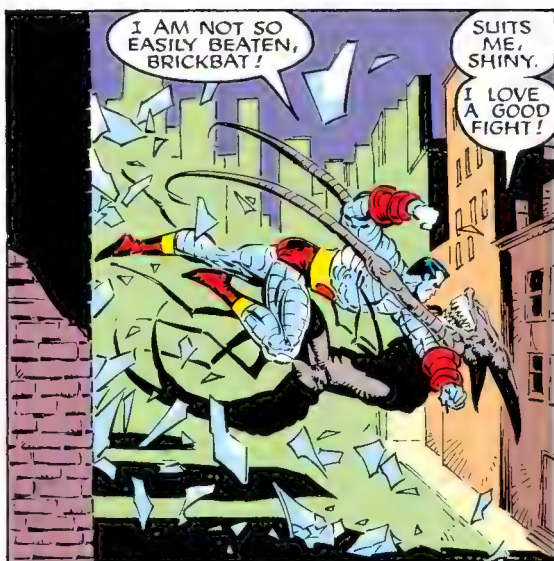








UNFORTUNATELY, WOLVERINE ISN'T THE ONLY X-MAN ASKING THAT ANGUISHED QUESTION...



I AM NOT SO EASILY BEATEN, BRICKBAT!

SUITS ME, SHINY. I LOVE A GOOD FIGHT!

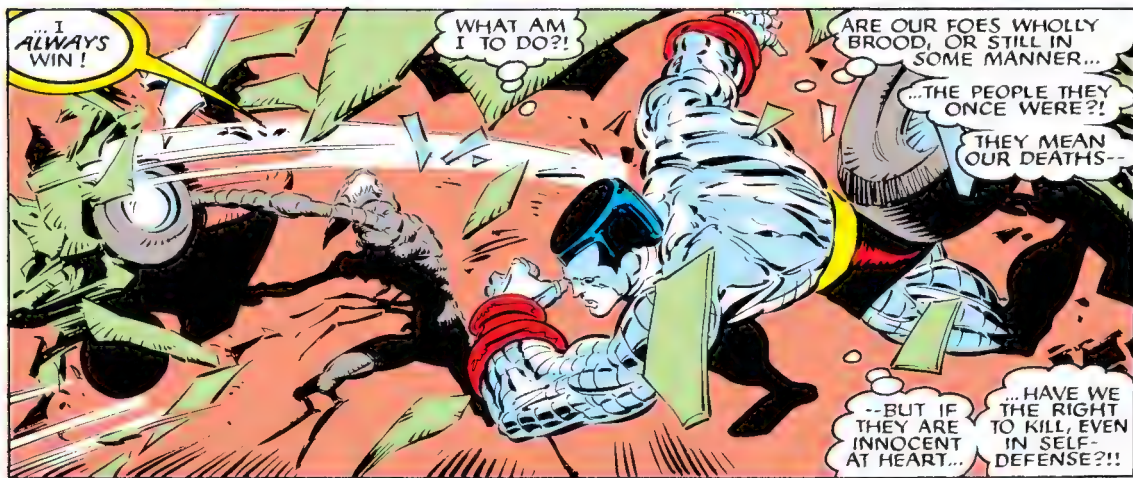


'SPECIALLY WHEN I WIN!



AN', IN ALL FAIRNESS, BIG GUY...

...I SHOULD TELL YOU...



...I ALWAYS WIN!

WHAT AM I TO DO?!

ARE OUR FOES WHOLLY BROOD, OR STILL IN SOME MANNER...

...THE PEOPLE THEY ONCE WERE?!

THEY MEAN OUR DEATHS--

...HAVE WE THE RIGHT TO KILL, EVEN IN SELF-DEFENSE?!!

--BUT IF THEY ARE INNOCENT AT HEART...



EVEN ROGUE CAN'T BREAK MY ADAMANTIUM LACED BONES...

...AN' MY HEALING FACTOR'S COPING WITH ANY OTHER DAMAGE SHE DOES...

--BUT THE PUNISHMENT SHE'S DISHING OUT...

...IS TAKING ITS TOLL -- CRIPES!?!

THE PERFECT ONE-TWO, MY SWEET--

--I TELE-PATHICALLY SEIZE YOUR MIND...

...WHILE MY TEMPTRESS PHEROMONES MAKE YOU WORSHIP ME.

POOR HEROES, HAMSTRUNG BY THEIR OWN IDEALS.

THEY WON'T KILL PEOPLE THEY BELIEVE...

...TO BE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THE BROOD.

INSTEAD, THEY'LL DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO SAVE US.

WHICH WILL PROVE THEIR ULTIMATE LINDOING.

WOLVERINE-- THEIR PET BERSERKER--

--HE'S THE EXCEPTION TO THAT RULE.

CRAZY LOON'LL EVEN SLAUGHTER HIS PALS, IF HE HAS TO...



...UNLESS LOCKUP TAKES HIM OUTTA THE FIGHT!



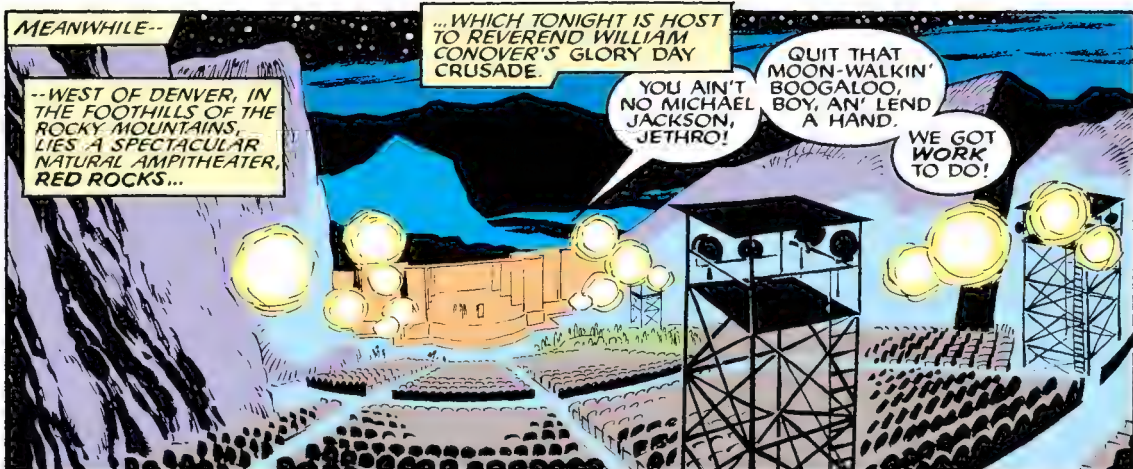
NO USE STRUGGLIN', SUGAR.

YOU'RE PARALYZED-- HELPLESS AS A BABY.



AND YOU KNOW, X-MAN...

...WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.



MEANWHILE--

--WEST OF DENVER, IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, LIES A SPECTACULAR NATURAL AMPITHEATER, RED ROCKS...

...WHICH TONIGHT IS HOST TO REVEREND WILLIAM CONOVER'S GLORY DAY CRUSADE.

YOU AIN'T NO MICHAEL JACKSON, JETHRO!

QUIT THAT MOON-WALKIN' BOOGALOO, BOY, AN' LEND A HAND.

WE GOT WORK TO DO!



EVERYTHING GONNA BE READY FOR BILL'S SUNRISE SERVICE, AARON.

SHOULD MAKE IT FINE, GEORGE, WITH ROOM TO SPARE.



THE WORD IS, PEOPLE'RE COMING FROM ALL OVER.

PARKING LOT'S ALREADY FILLING UP.

REVEREND BILL'S WORTH THE EFFORT.

HE'S A GOOD MAN.



HAVE SOME MORE, FRIEND...

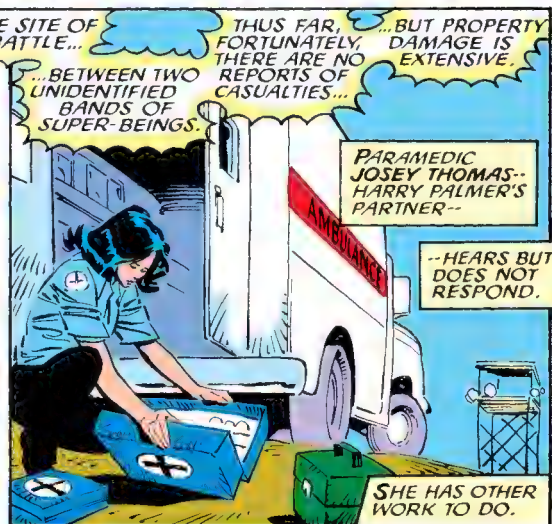
...THERE'S PLENTY ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE.

ANDREW, TURN DOWN THAT NOISE!

IT'S NEWS, HON. SOUNDS PRETTY WILD.

REPORTS ARE STILL SKETCHY-- POLICE ARE TRYING TO CORDON OFF...

...THE SITE OF A BATTLE...



THUS FAR, FORTUNATELY, THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF CASUALTIES...

...BETWEEN TWO UNIDENTIFIED BANDS OF SUPER-BEINGS.

...BUT PROPERTY DAMAGE IS EXTENSIVE.

PARAMEDIC JOSEY THOMAS-- HARRY PALMER'S PARTNER--

...HEARS BUT DOES NOT RESPOND.

SHE HAS OTHER WORK TO DO.



WILLIAM?
UP HERE!
OF COURSE, WHERE ELSE WOULD I FIND YOU THE NIGHT BEFORE A SERVICE...
...BUT OUT UNDER THE STARS...
...GAZING UP AT GOD'S HANDIWORK, THE CELESTIAL VAULT OF HEAVEN.
NEVER FAILS TO TAKE MY BREATH AWAY, HANNAH...
...OR RESTORE MY SENSE OF PERSPECTIVE...
...ABOUT MAN'S TRUE PLACE IN THE FIRMAMENT.



IS THAT COFFEE?
JUST BREWED.
BLESS YOU, I'D LOVE SOME.
EVERYTHING GOING WELL?
SPLENDIDLY. THE EARLY ARRIVALS ARE PITCHING IN TO HELP OUR ROAD CREW.
WILLIAM, THERE'S SOME SORT OF PITCHED BATTLE RAGING IN DENVER--
--MUTANTS, THE RADIO SAYS.



MIGHT AS WELL SAY BLACKS OR MIDGETS OR WOMEN... OR MARTIANS--
--THE ACCUSATION WOULD MAKE AS MUCH SENSE.
I CAN POUR, HANNAH.
SO CAN I, WILLIAM, STILL.
IT'S MY PLEASURE.



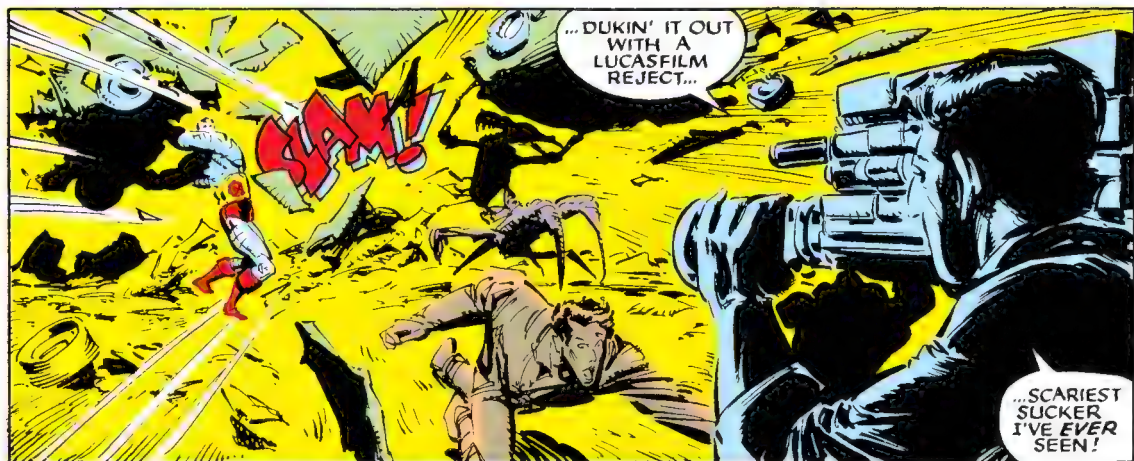
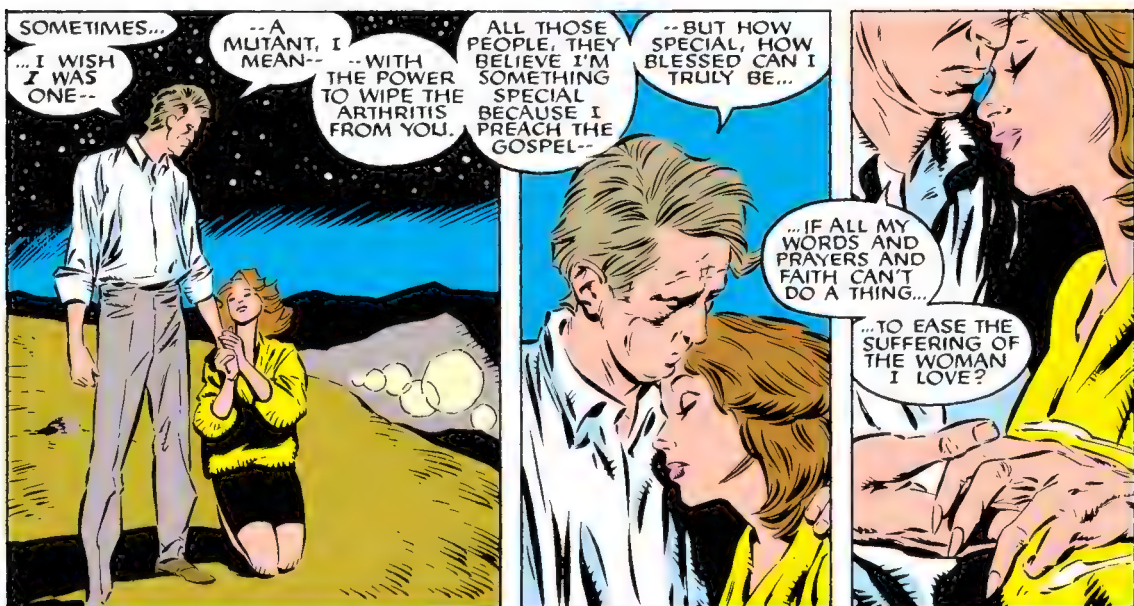
THEY'RE SO LIKE US, THESE "MUTANTS."
YET AS DIFFERENT AS CAN BE.
SO EASY TO FEAR THEM...
...TO THINK OF THEM SOLELY AS A THREAT TO HUMAN HEGEMONY OVER THE EARTH.
AREN'T THEY?
NO MORE, I SUSPECT, THAN CHILDREN ARE TO THEIR PARENTS.

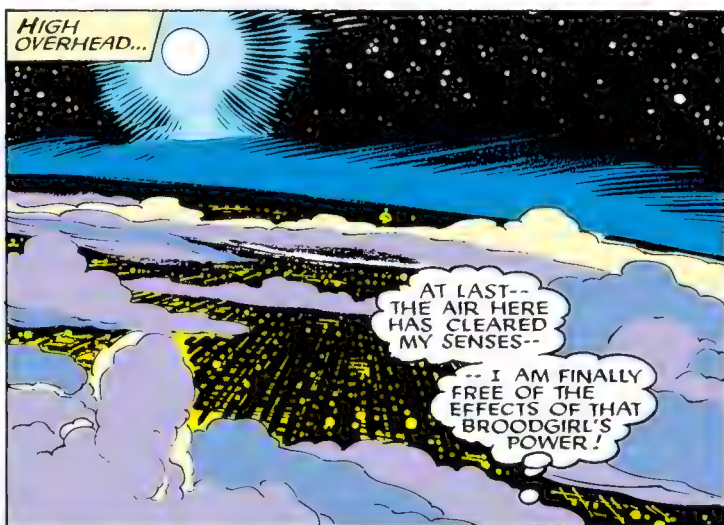
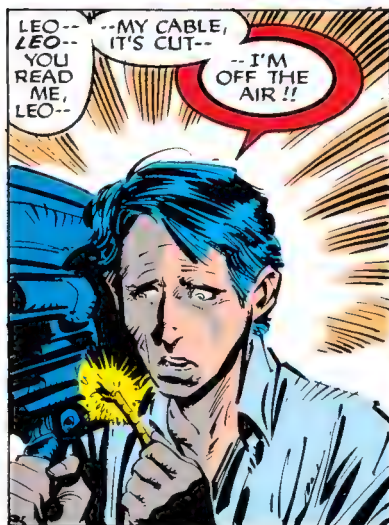
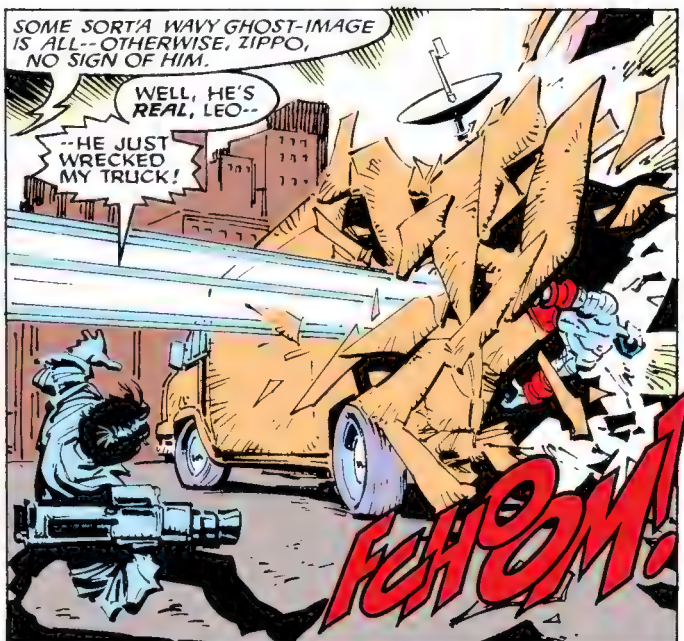


YOU LOVE THEM WHEN THEY'RE YOUNG AND GROWING--
--YOU MARVEL AT THE WONDER OF THEIR EXISTENCE--
--UNTIL YOU START TO REALIZE, THEY'RE YOUNG AND YOU'RE NOT.
THEY'LL SEE AND EXPERIENCE THINGS YOU NEVER WILL.

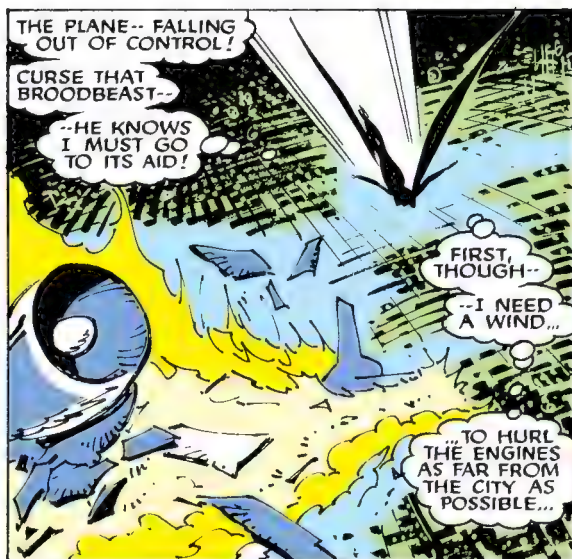


THEY'RE THE FUTURE-- AND SUDDENLY, YOU'RE THE PAST.
IT HURTS. YOU RESENT IT. RESENT THEM.
AND THE LOVE ISN'T QUITE SO ABSOLUTE ANYMORE.
AND FOR A FEW, SADLY, IT TURNS TO SOMETHING ELSE.









THE PLANE-- FALLING OUT OF CONTROL!
CURSE THAT BROODBEAST--
--HE KNOWS I MUST GO TO ITS AID!
FIRST, THOUGH--
--I NEED A WIND...
...TO HURL THE ENGINES AS FAR FROM THE CITY AS POSSIBLE...



...TO LESSEN THE RISK TO ANYONE BELOW."
STAPLETON TOWER-- TWA 843-- MAYDAY, MAYDAY!
RICK-- FULL POWER, NUMBER THREE--
-- AND HAUL ON THAT YOKE, HARD AS YOU CAN--
--WE GOTTA BRING HER NOSE UP!
CAPTAIN, SHE'S NOT RESPONDING!



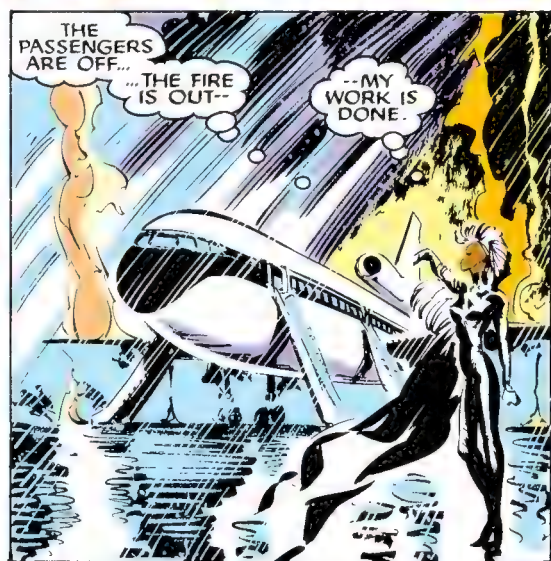
I WISH I POSSESSED WOLVERINE'S CLAWS, MONSTER--
KNOW!
-- SO I COULD DEAL WITH YOU AS YOU DESERVE...
...PERMANENTLY!



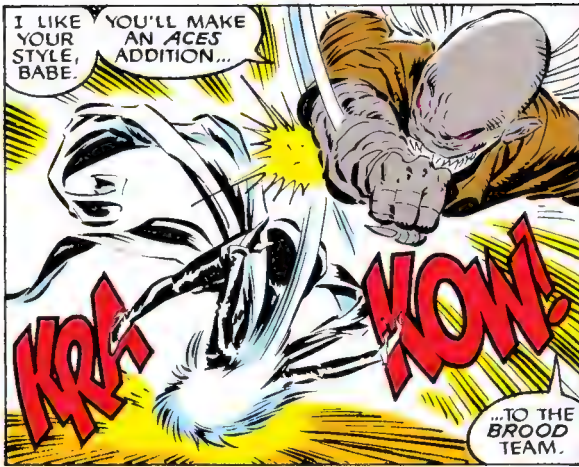
I HAVE TO FINISH THIS...
...BEFORE HE RECOVERES.
AIRCRAFT SO CLOSE TO THE GROUND--
--ALMOST NO TIME...
...TO FOCUS AN UPDRAFT...
...TO COUNTER ITS FALL...



...AND BRING IT SAFELY TO EARTH...
D'YOU SEE?!
IT CAN'T BE!
THOUGHT THEY WERE GONERS
A MIRACLE
WHO'S THAT OUT THERE
AN ANGEL, BLESS HER



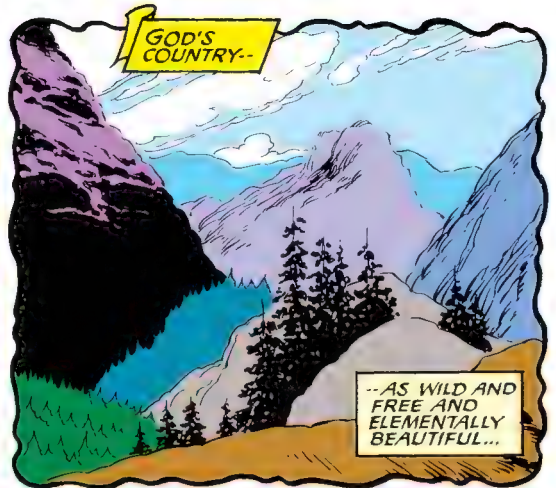
THE PASSENGERS ARE OFF...
...THE FIRE IS OUT--
--MY WORK IS DONE.



I LIKE YOUR STYLE, BABE.

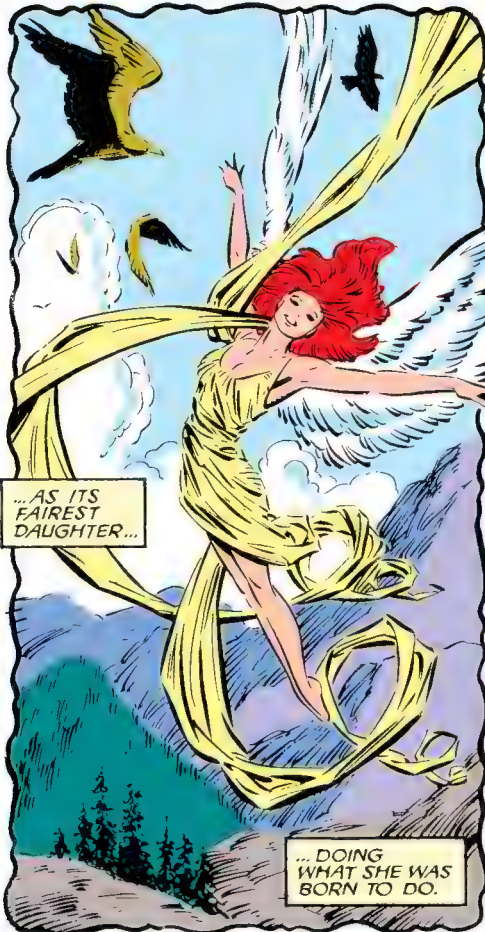
YOU'LL MAKE AN ACES ADDITION...

...TO THE BROOD TEAM.



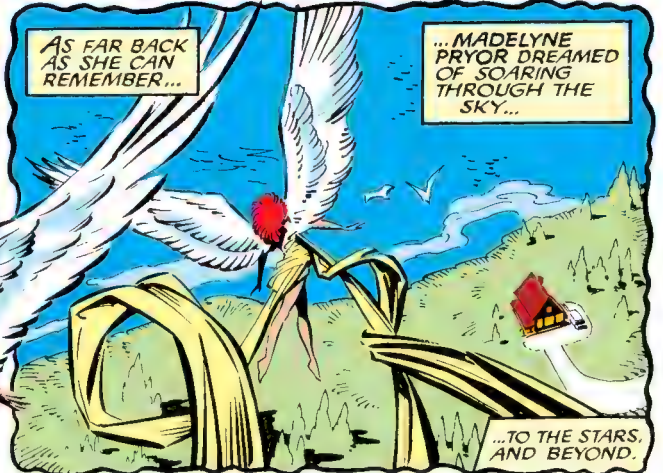
GOD'S COUNTRY--

--AS WILD AND FREE AND ELEMENTALLY BEAUTIFUL...



...AS ITS FAIREST DAUGHTER...

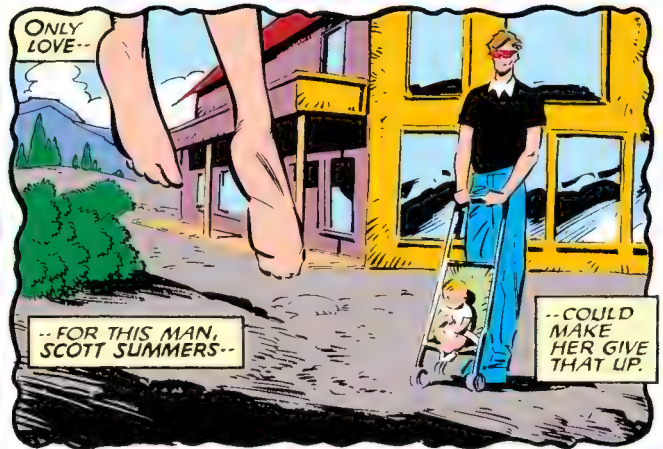
... DOING WHAT SHE WAS BORN TO DO.



AS FAR BACK AS SHE CAN REMEMBER...

... MADELYNE PRYOR DREAMED OF SOARING THROUGH THE SKY...

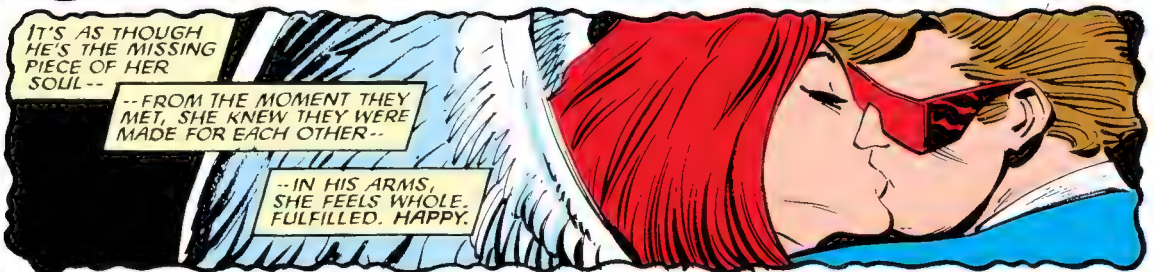
...TO THE STARS, AND BEYOND.



ONLY LOVE--

-- FOR THIS MAN, SCOTT SUMMERS--

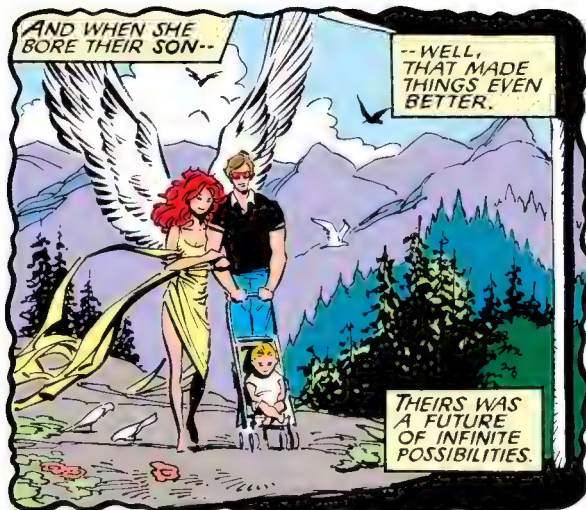
-- COULD MAKE HER GIVE THAT UP.



IT'S AS THOUGH HE'S THE MISSING PIECE OF HER SOUL --

-- FROM THE MOMENT THEY MET, SHE KNEW THEY WERE MADE FOR EACH OTHER--

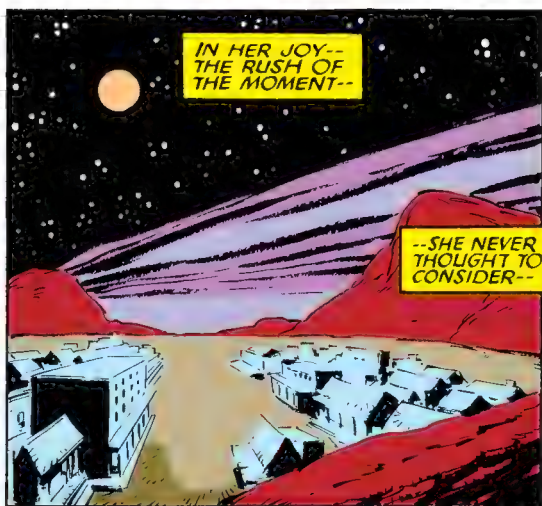
-- IN HIS ARMS, SHE FEELS WHOLE, FULFILLED. HAPPY.



AND WHEN SHE
BORE THEIR SON--

--WELL,
THAT MADE
THINGS EVEN
BETTER.

THEIRS WAS
A FUTURE
OF INFINITE
POSSIBILITIES.



IN HER JOY--
THE RUSH OF
THE MOMENT--

--SHE NEVER
THOUGHT TO
CONSIDER--

...THAT SOME
MIGHT BE BAD.

SHE LIES WHERE SHE FELL, BENEATH
THE MAIN MONITOR SCREEN OF THE
COMPUTER COMMAND CENTER, THAT
ITSELF IS BURIED BENEATH THE
ABANDONED AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK
TOWN THE X-MEN HAVE CLAIMED
FOR THEIR OWN.

AND BESIDE
HER-- IN THIS
REALM OF
THE FLESH...

...AS WELL AS
THIS OTHER OF
THE SPIRIT...

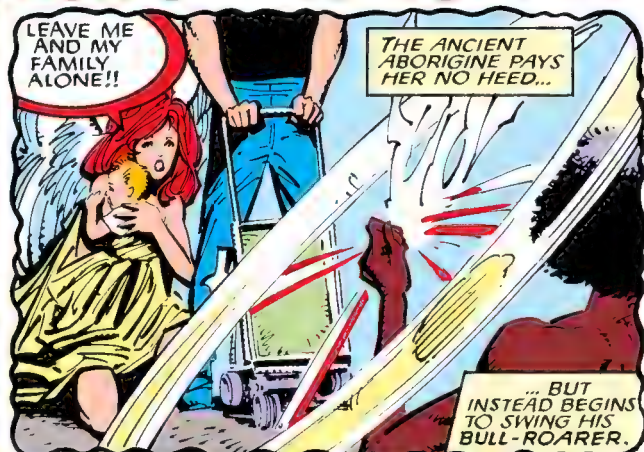
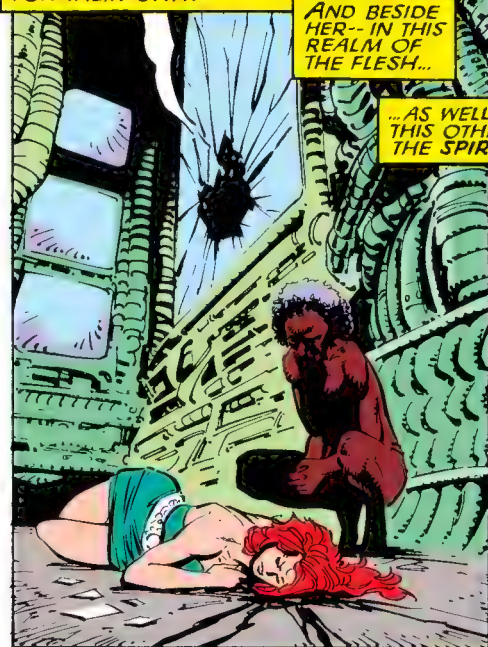


GATEWAY!?!

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?!

YOU DON'T
EXIST! YOU'RE
A CREATURE
FROM MY
DREAMS !!

GO
AWAY,
CURSE
YOU !



LEAVE ME
AND MY
FAMILY
ALONE!!

THE ANCIENT
ABORIGINE PAYS
HER NO HEED...

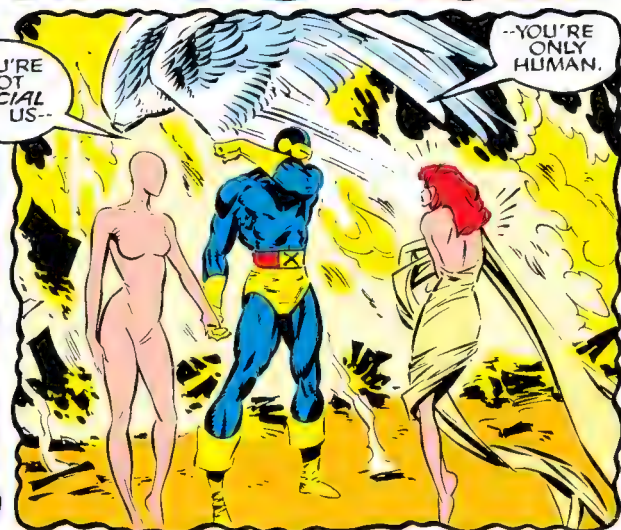
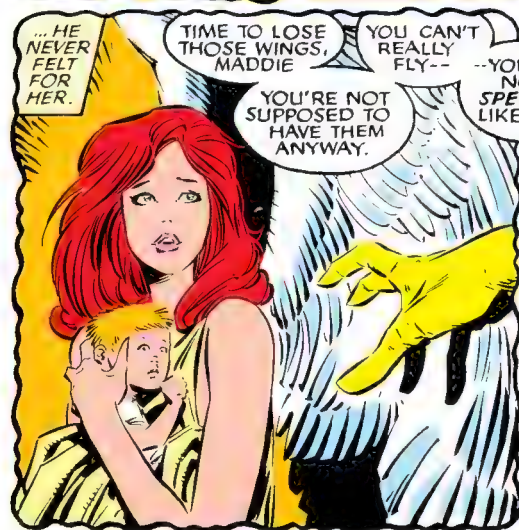
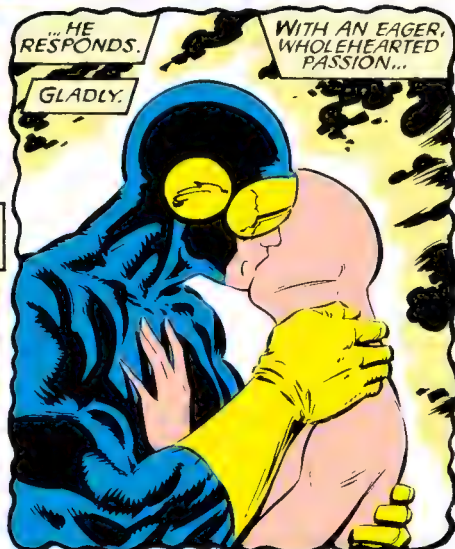
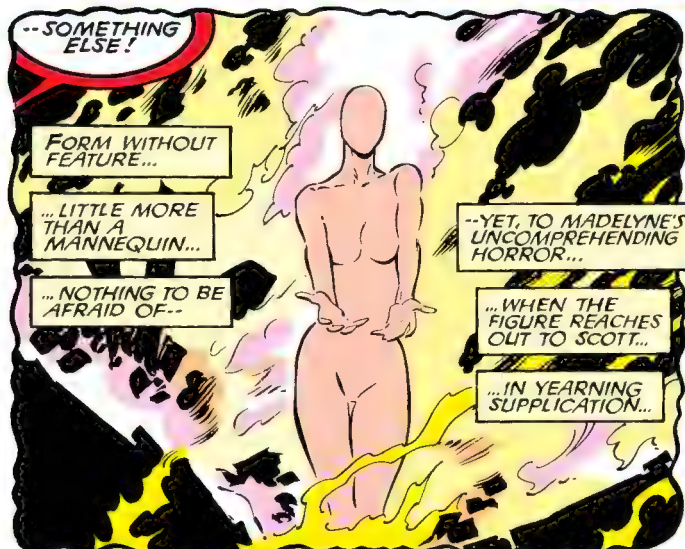
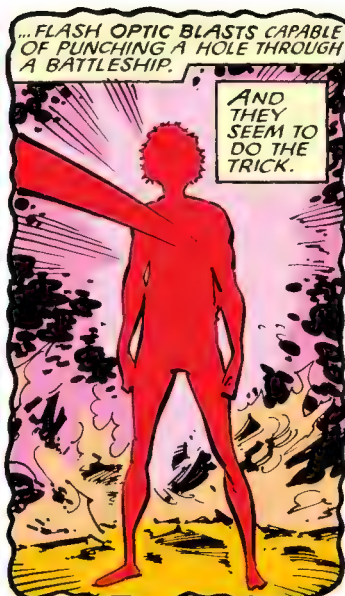
... BUT
INSTEAD BEGINS
TO SWING HIS
BULL-ROARER.

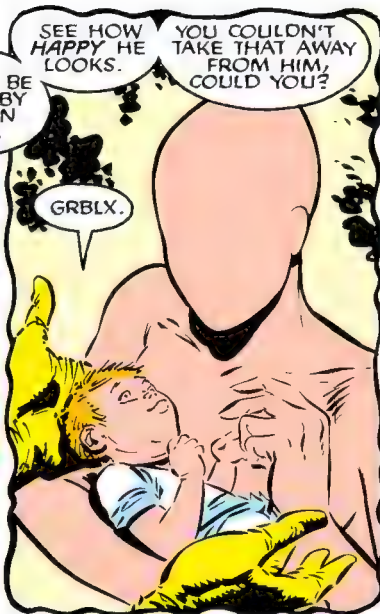
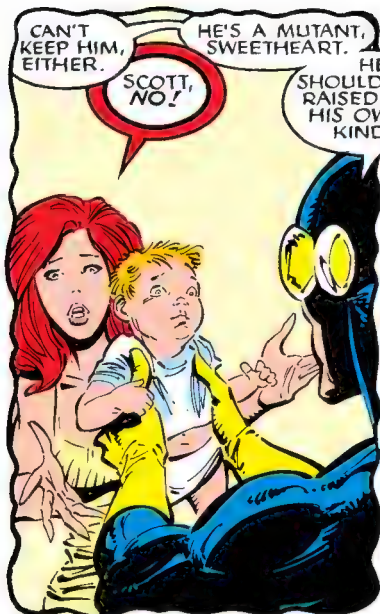


IN OUR WAKING
REALITY, THIS
OPENS A
TELEPORTAL
GATEWAY.

SKRBOOM!!

HERE, IT HAS
OTHER ABILITIES.







I LOVE
JEAN
GREY,
MADDIE--

--ALWAYS
HAVE,
ALWAYS
WILL--

--WHEN I
THOUGHT
SHE WAS
DEAD...

...I FELT LIKE
SOMEONE
HAD RIPPED
OUT MY
HEART.

IT WAS
WRONG
OF ME...

...TO TURN
TO YOU TO
TAKE HER
PLACE.

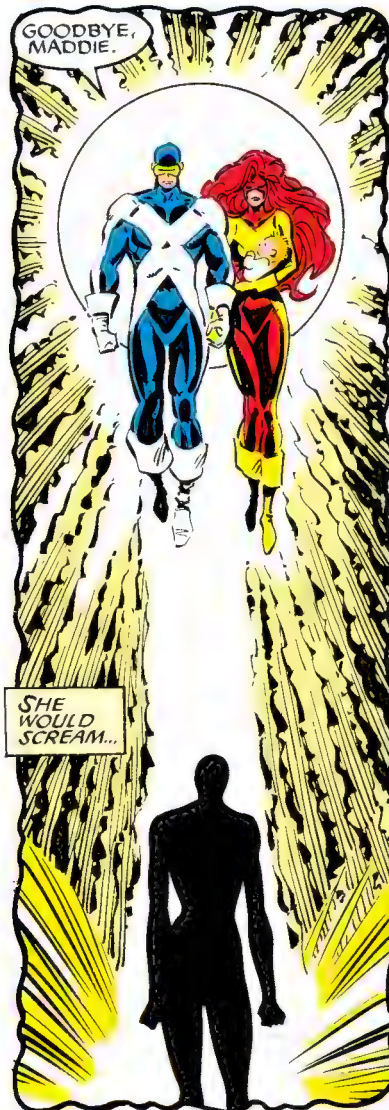
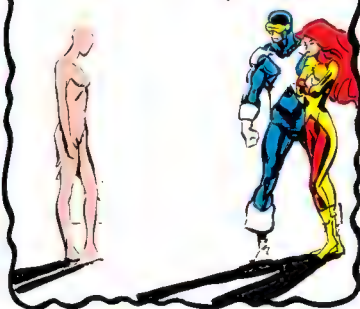


I NEVER
MEANT
TO HURT
YOU...

...BUT ONCE I
DISCOVERED
JEAN WAS
ALIVE...

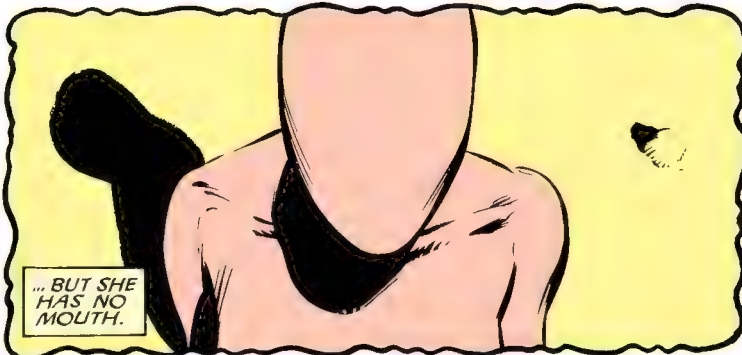
...I HAD TO
GO BACK
TO HER.

I'LL
NEVER
LOSE HER
AGAIN.

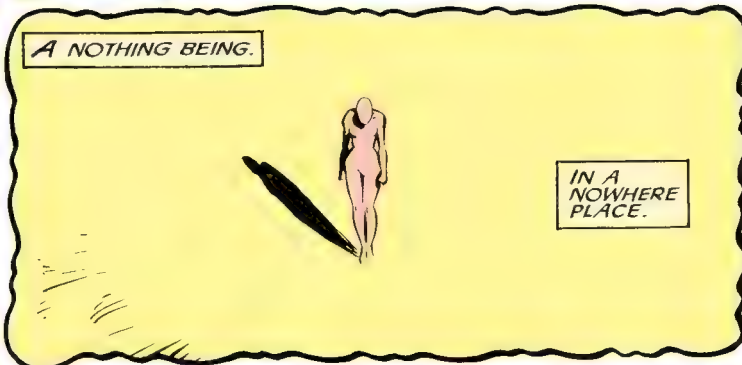


GOODBYE,
MADDIE.

SHE
WOULD
SCREAM...

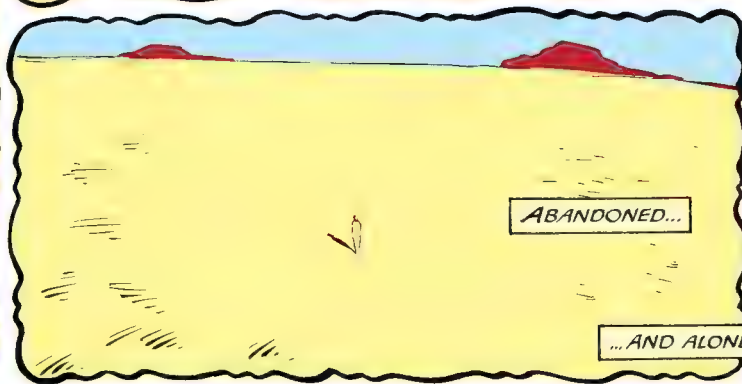


... BUT SHE
HAS NO
MOUTH.



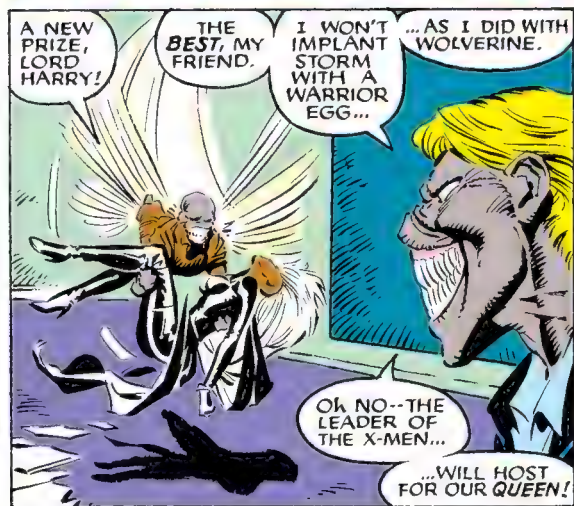
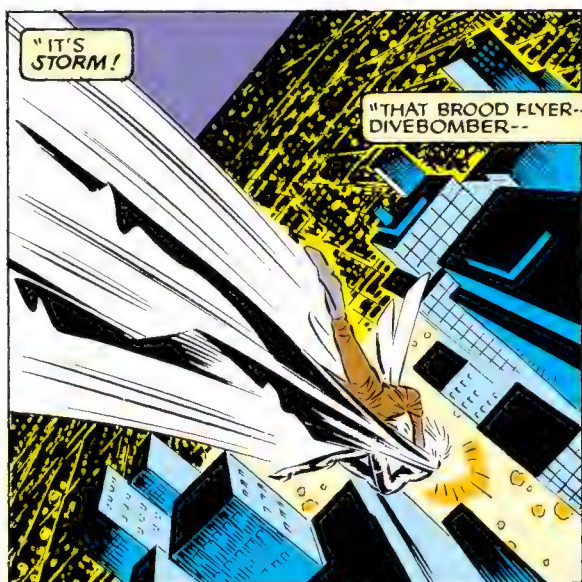
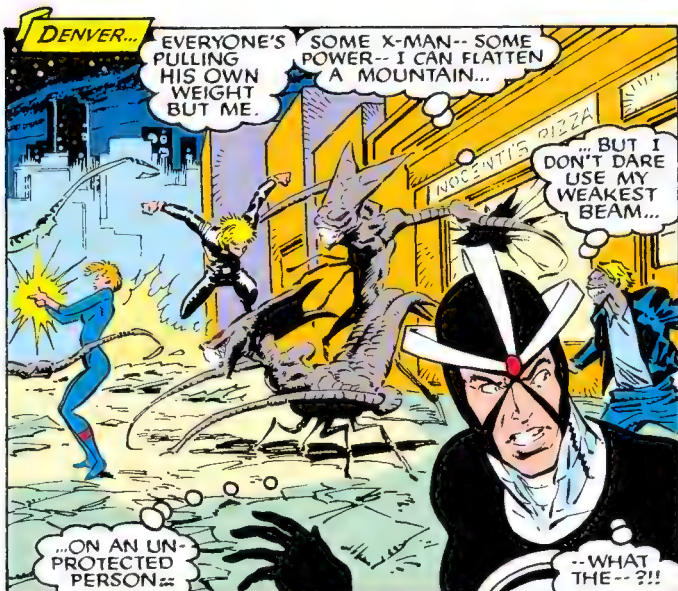
A NOTHING BEING.

IN A
NOWHERE
PLACE.



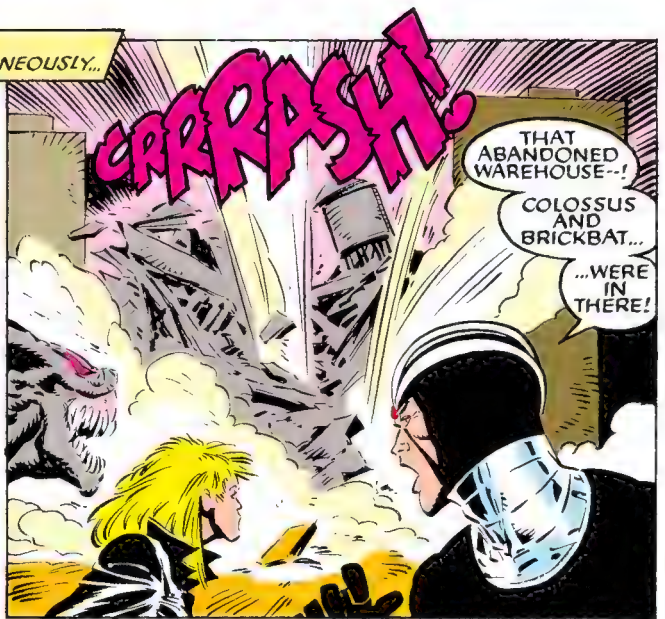
ABANDONED...

... AND ALONE.





AND, SIMULTANEOUSLY...



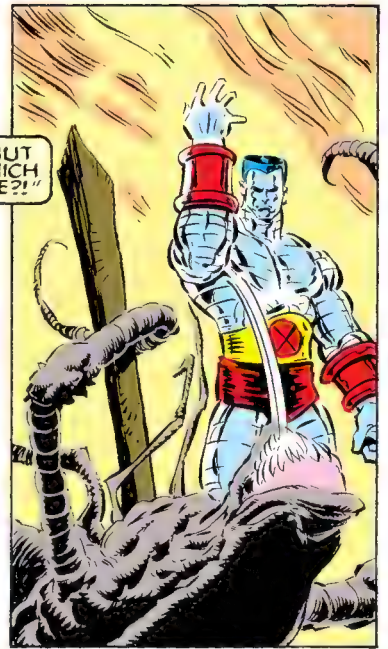
THAT
ABANDONED
WAREHOUSE--!
COLOSSUS
AND
BRICKBAT...
...WERE
IN THERE!



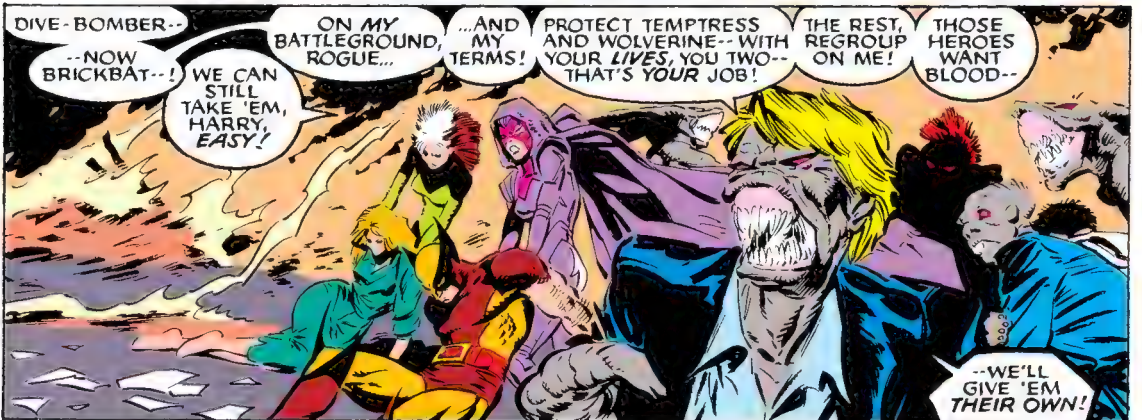
SMOKE
AND
DUST...
...MAKING
IT SO
INFERNALLY
HARD TO
SEE--
--WHERE
ARE
YOU, BIG
FELLA--
...DEAR
LORD, LET
PETER BE
OKAY!



"SOMETHING'S
MOVING--"



"--BUT
WHICH
ONE?!"



DIVE-BOMBER--
--NOW
BRICKBAT--!
WE CAN
STILL
TAKE 'EM,
HARRY,
EASY!
ON MY
BATTLEGROUND,
ROGUE...
...AND
MY
TERMS!
PROTECT TEMPTRESS
AND WOLVERINE-- WITH
YOUR LIVES, YOU TWO--
THAT'S YOUR JOB!
THE REST,
REGROUP
ON ME!
THOSE
HEROES
WANT
BLOOD--
--WE'LL
GIVE 'EM
THEIR OWN!



IN TWO WEEKS: **GLORY DAY**

MARVEL



TM
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BY THE
COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY

THE UNCANNY

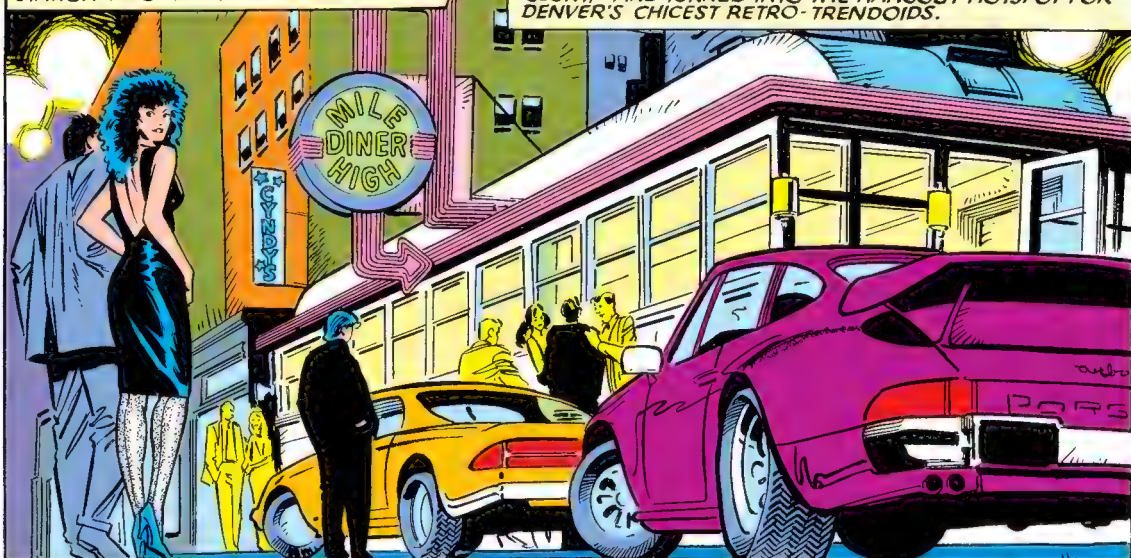
X-MEN[®]



SILVESTRI
GREEN

WHEN THE MILE HIGH DINER OPENED, BACK IN THE HEYDAY OF RAIL TRAVEL, IT CATERED MOSTLY TO THE CREWS WHO RODE THE BIG ENGINES ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND THE YARD WORKERS AT DENVER'S UNION STATION WHO KEPT THEM RUNNING.

BUT AS THE FORTUNES OF THE RAILROADS FELL, SO TOO DID THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND DINER THAT DEPENDED ON THEM. HARD TIMES, WITH A VENGEANCE--UNTIL, BARELY HANGING ON, MILE HIGH WAS REFURBISHED, RESTORED TO A MODERN DESIGNER-VERSION OF ITS ORIGINAL "GLORY," AND TURNED INTO THE HANGOUT HOTSPOT FOR DENVER'S CHICEST RETRO-TRENDOLDS.



SURPRISINGLY, FOR ALL THE GLITZ, THE MILE HIGH HASN'T LOST ITS SOUL. IT OFFERS TODAY WHAT IT ALWAYS DID: GOOD FOOD, GOOD CONVERSATION, FAIR PRICES--

--AND IN RETURN, ON THE AVERAGE NIGHT, THERE ARE STILL AS MANY BLUE COLLAR PATRONS AS WHITE, AND THE PLACE IS AS JUMPING AT MIDNIGHT AS NOON.



UNFORTUNATELY, TONIGHT IS ANYTHING BUT AVERAGE...

Whoa!

WHAT THE--?!

THAT LIGHT ?!?

FROM THE TRAINYARD--

--GOOD LORD, WAS IT AN EXPLOSION?!



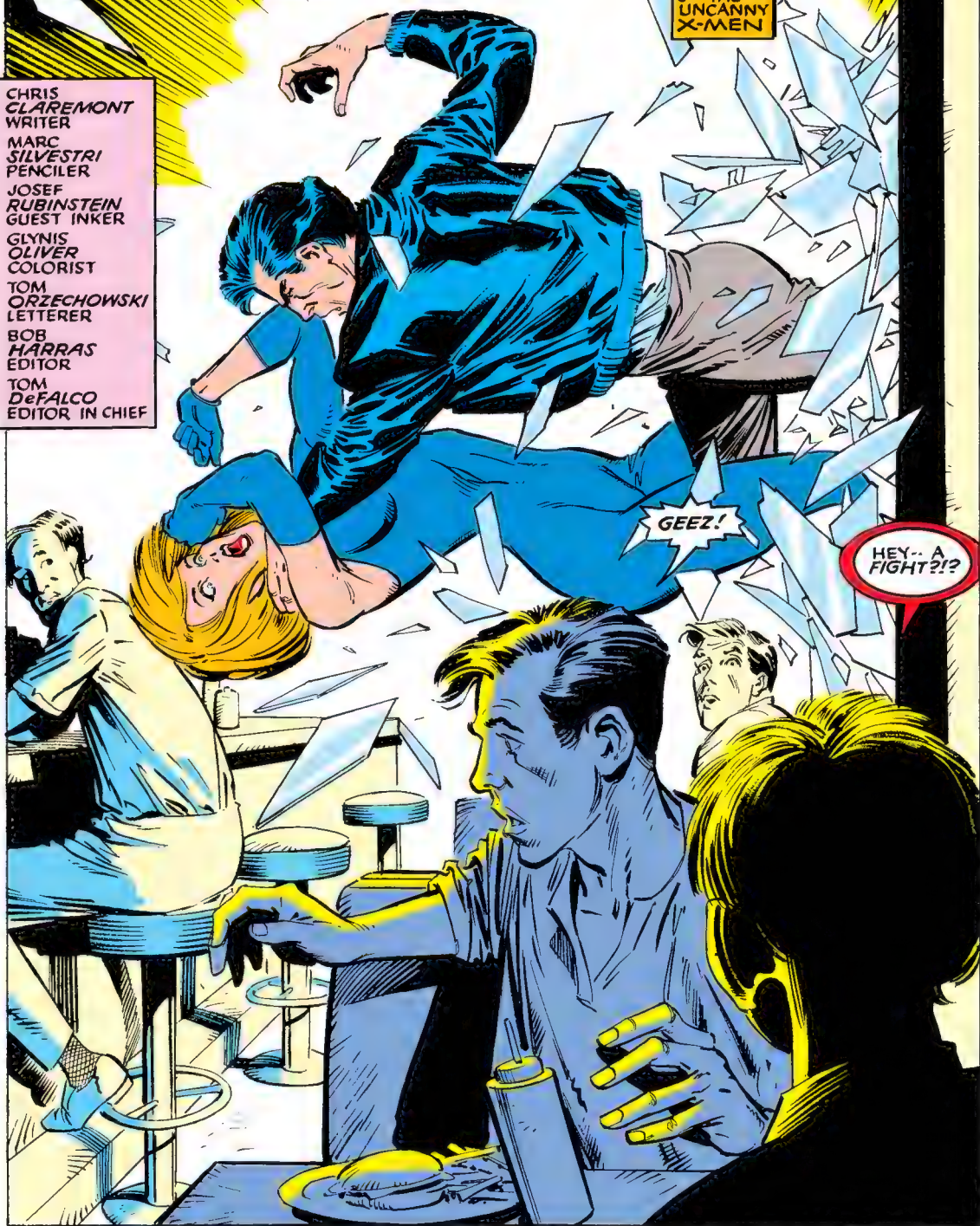
NOPE--
SOMETHING
FAR WORSE!

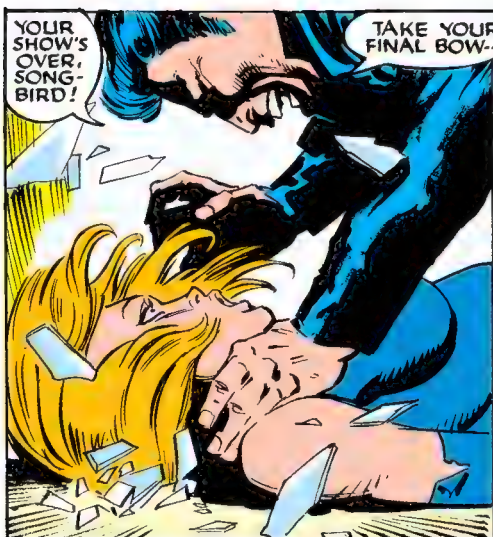
STAN LEE presents

Glory Day

Starring
THE
UNCANNY
X-MEN

CHRIS
CLAREMONT
WRITER
MARC
SILVESTRI
PENCILER
JOSEF
RUBINSTEIN
GUEST INKER
GLYNIS
OLIVER
COLORIST
TOM
ORZECOWSKI
LETTERER
BOB
HARRAS
EDITOR
TOM
DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF





YOUR
SHOW'S
OVER,
SONG-
BIRD!

TAKE YOUR
FINAL BOW--



THE
HECK
IT IS,
SKUNGE!

SKAM!

HER NAME IS
DAZZLER.

SHE TAKES SOUND--
ANY SOUND (BUT
SHE LIKES ROCK
MUSIC BEST)-- AND
TRANSDUCES IT
INTO LIGHT.



IN THIS CASE, A
PRESSOR BEAM OF
FOCUSED PHOTONS.

THEY'RE
WRECKIN'
THE
PLACE--
--CALL THE
COPS!

KISS
KISS
♥



WE
GOT
HER!

CAREFUL--
SHE'S A
MUTIE!

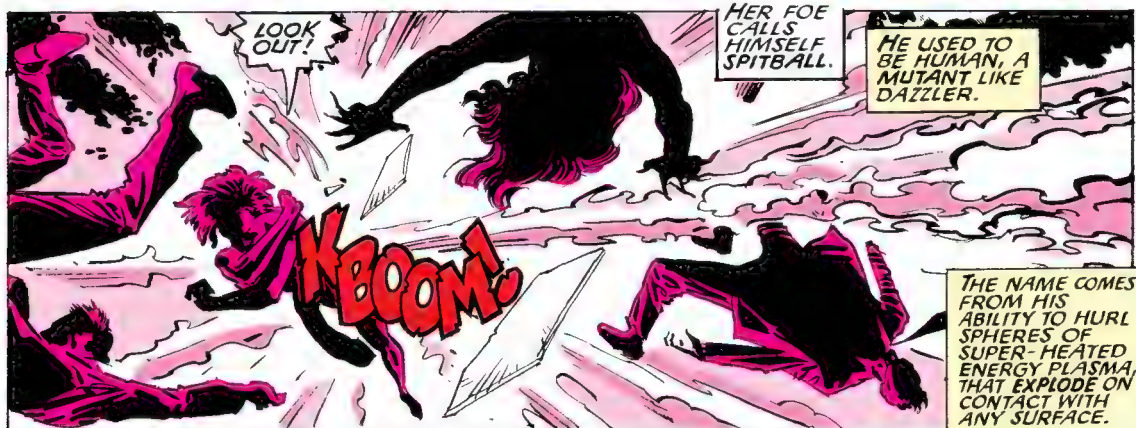
LEMMEGO!
I'M ONE OF THE
GOOD GUYS!



THEIR
MISTAKE.

YOUR
FUNERAL.

PAW!



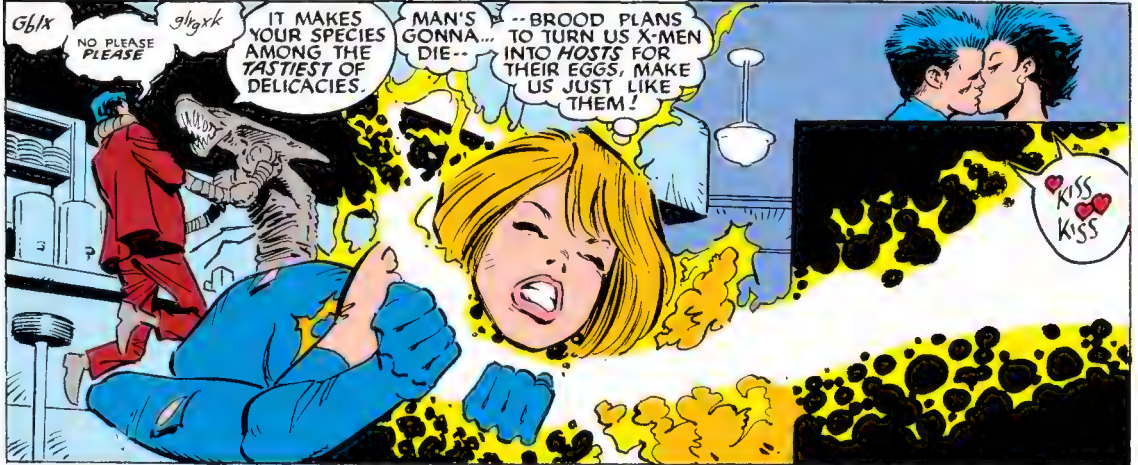
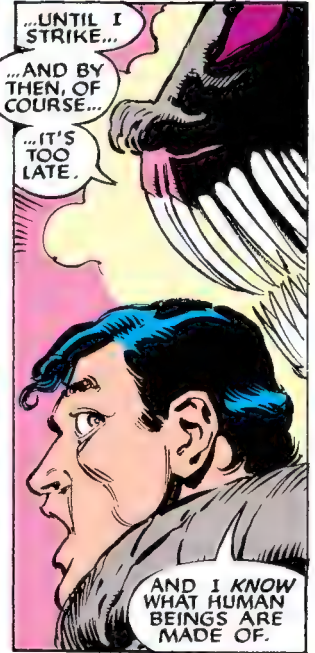
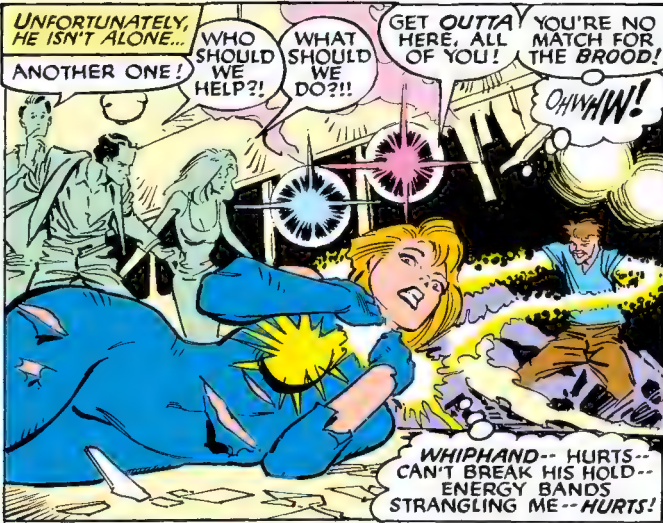
LOOK
OUT!

HER FOE
CALLS
HIMSELF
SPITBALL.

HE USED TO
BE HUMAN, A
MUTANT LIKE
DAZZLER.

KBOOM!

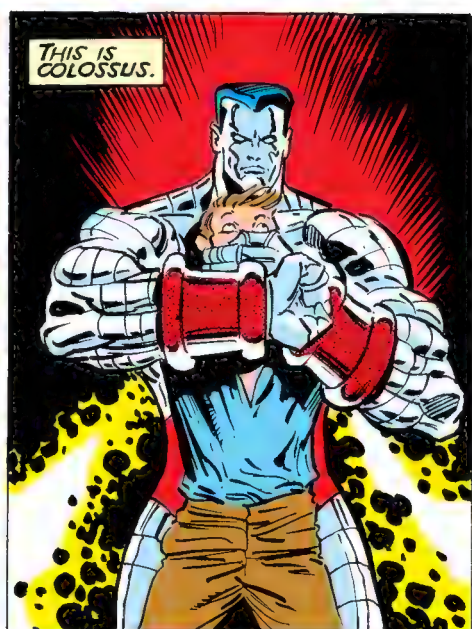
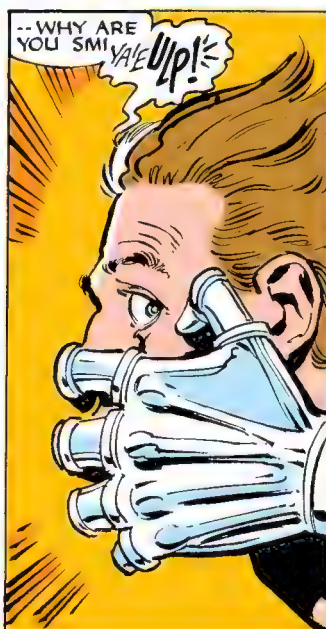
THE NAME COMES
FROM HIS
ABILITY TO HURL
SPHERES OF
SUPER-HEATED
ENERGY PLASMA,
THAT EXPLODE ON
CONTACT WITH
ANY SURFACE.

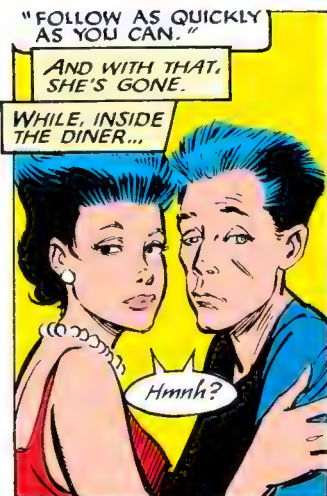
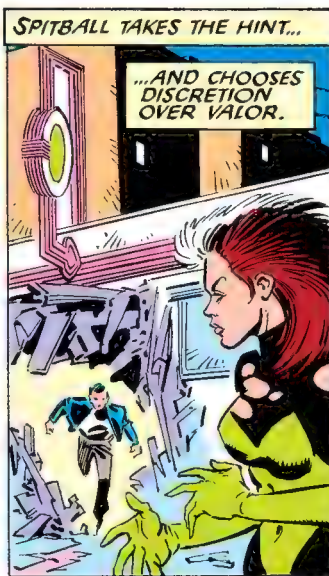
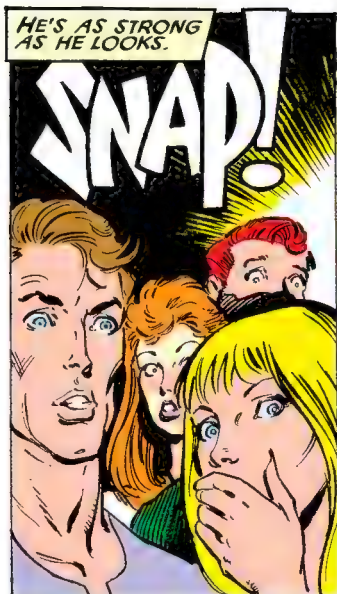


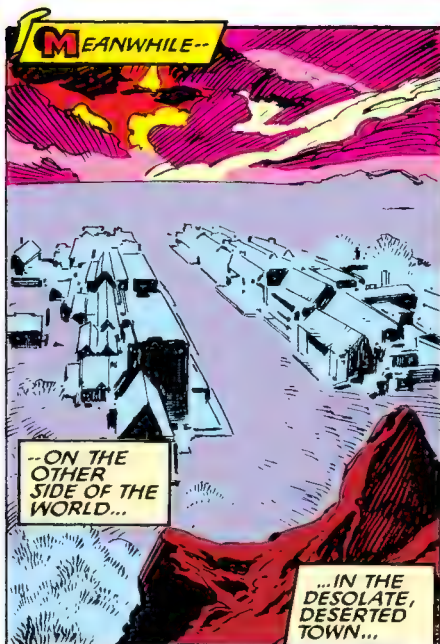


SHE'S PART OF A TEAM OF MUTANT HEROES, THE UNCANNY X-MEN.

LONGSHOT'S ITS NEWEST MEMBER.

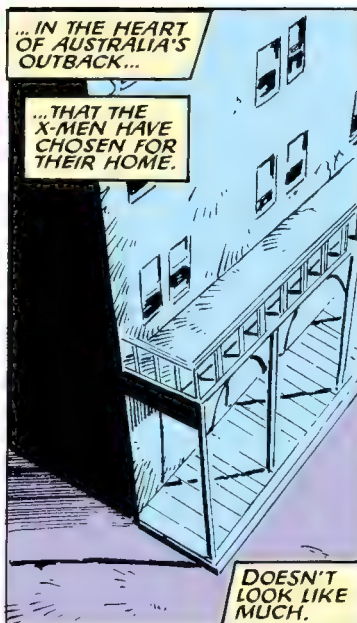






MEANWHILE--
--ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD--

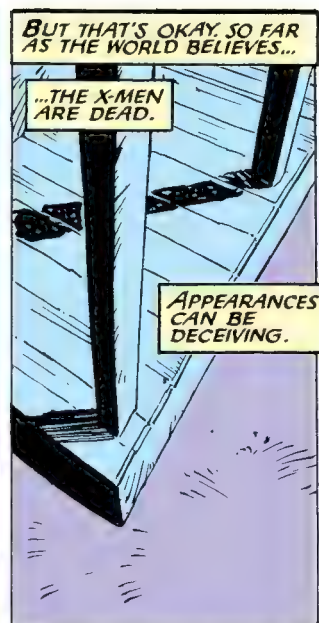
...IN THE DESOLATE, DESERTED TOWN...



...IN THE HEART OF AUSTRALIA'S OUTBACK...

...THAT THE X-MEN HAVE CHOSEN FOR THEIR HOME.

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH.



BUT THAT'S OKAY, SO FAR AS THE WORLD BELIEVES...

...THE X-MEN ARE DEAD.

APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING.

AND FEW THINGS--

--ESPECIALLY WHERE THE X-MEN ARE CONCERNED--

--ARE EVER WHAT THEY SEEM.

CASE IN POINT:

...RATTLE-TRAP BUILDINGS ABOVE...

...THE HIGHEST OF HIGH-TECH BELOW.

SCORES OF VIDEO SCREENS, IMPOSSIBLY SHOWING WHAT SHOULD BE MADELYNE PRYOR'S DREAM.



A HORRORSHOW NIGHTMARE WHEREIN HER HUSBAND, SCOTT SUMMERS...

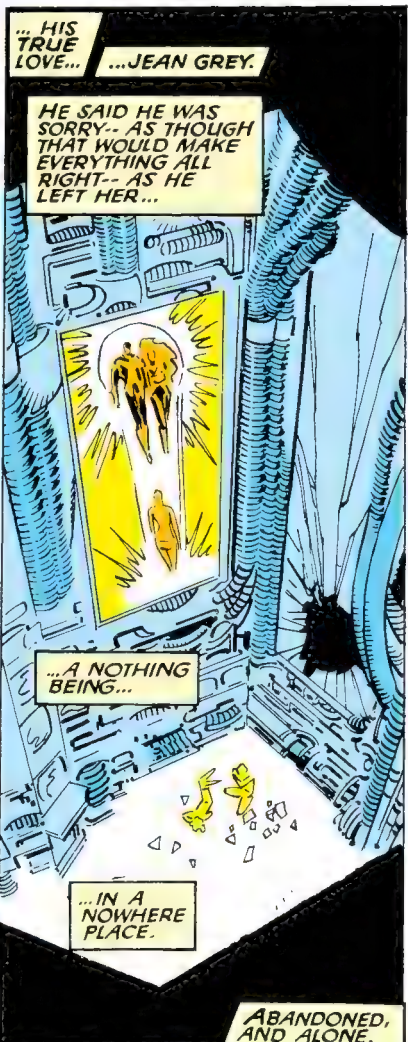
...STRIPS HER OF EVERYTHING OF VALUE...



...AND THEN HER VERY IDENTITY...



...GIVING THEM ALL TO HIS FIRST LOVE...



...HIS TRUE LOVE...

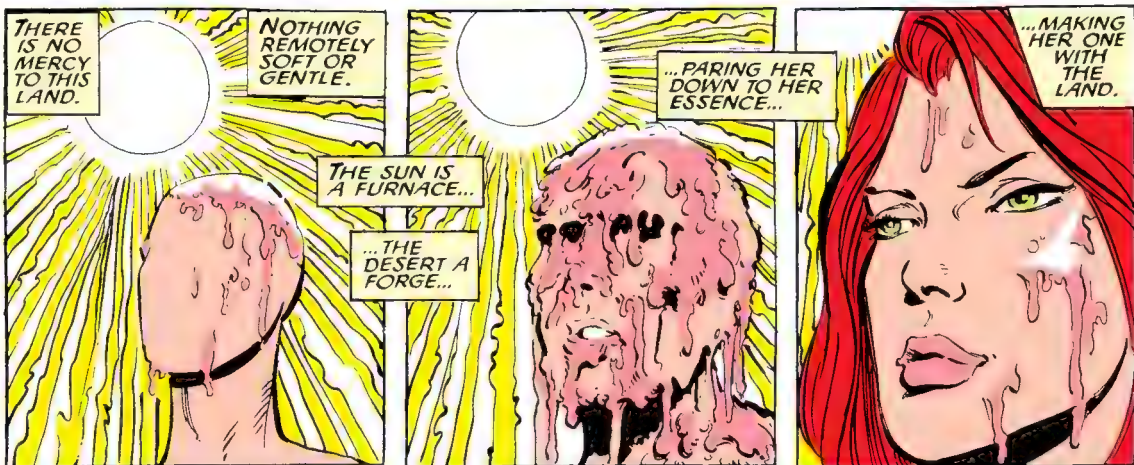
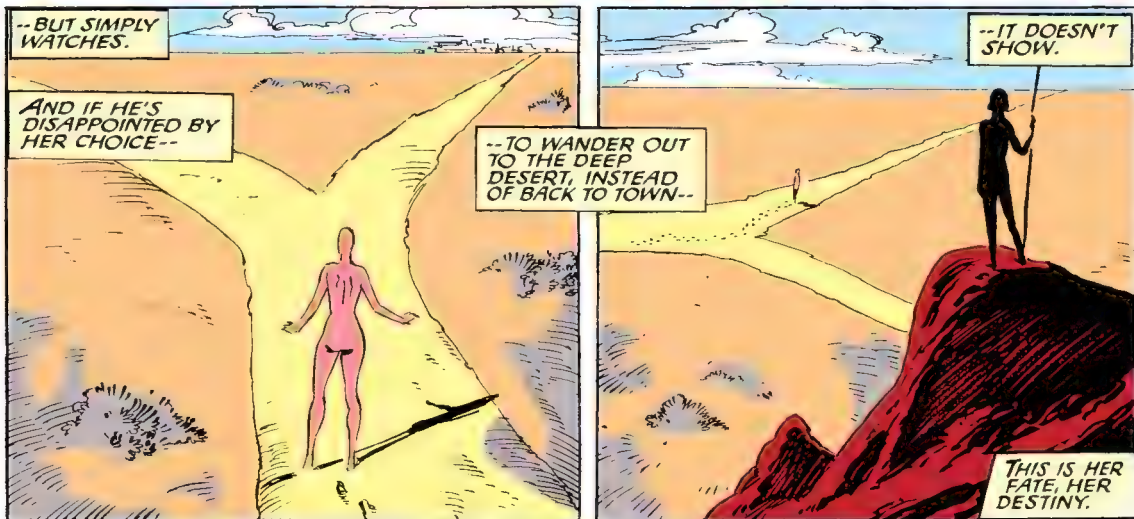
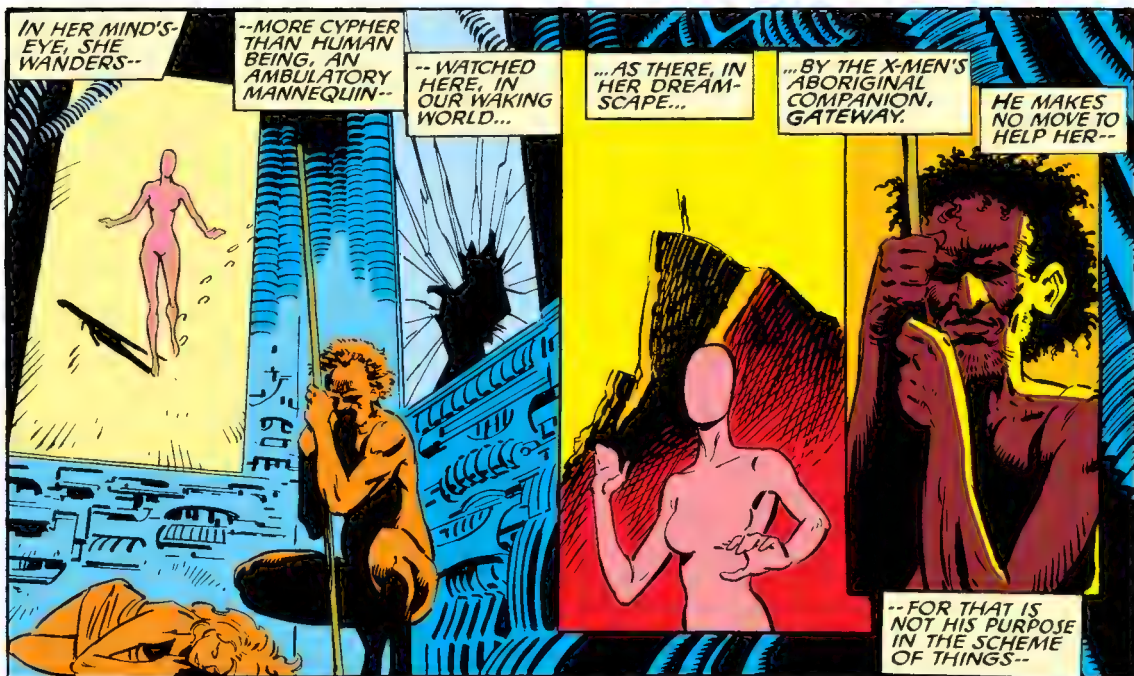
...JEAN GREY.

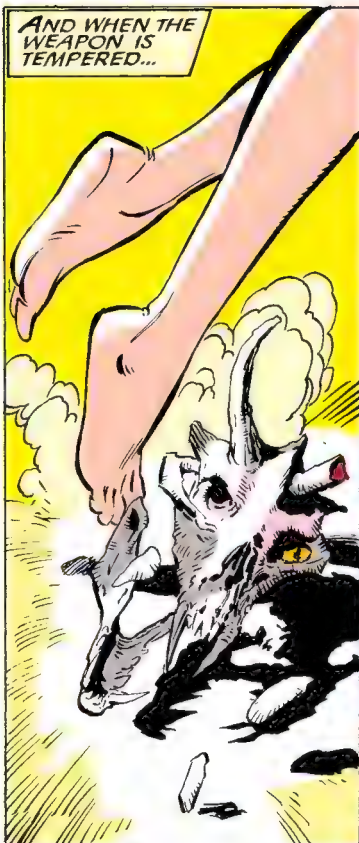
HE SAID HE WAS SORRY-- AS THOUGH THAT WOULD MAKE EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT-- AS HE LEFT HER...

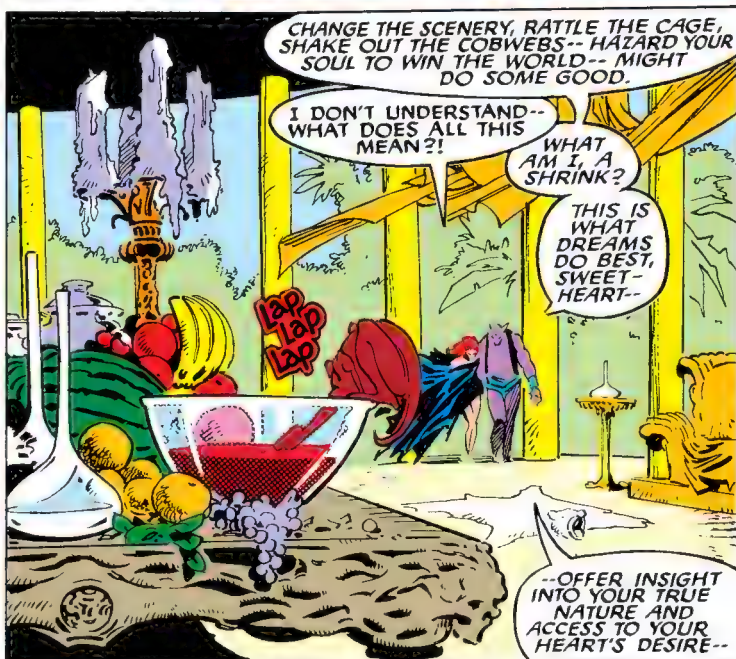
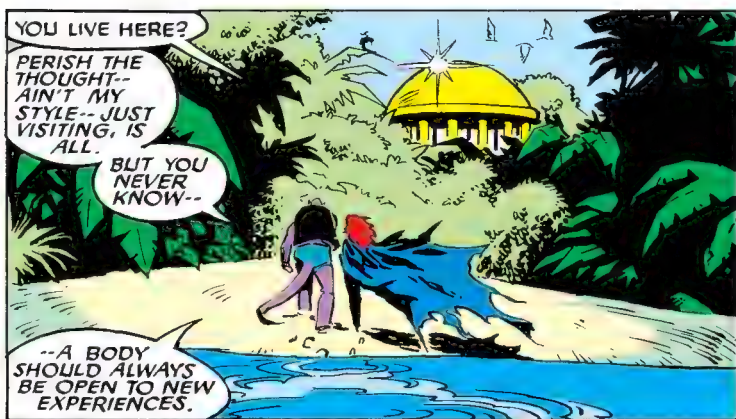
...A NOTHING BEING...

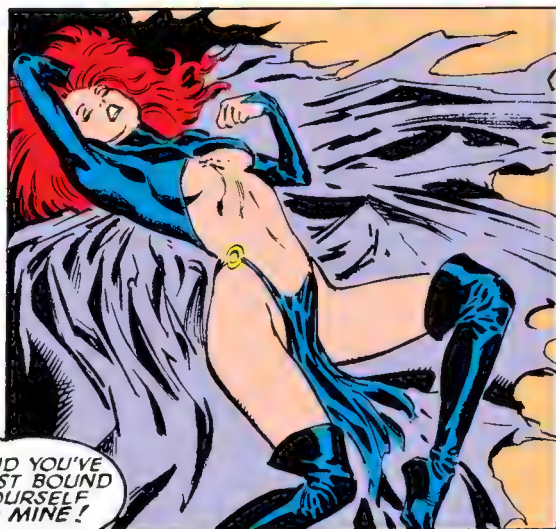
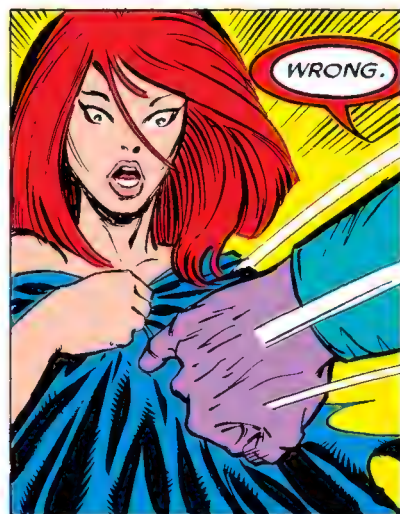
...IN A NOWHERE PLACE.

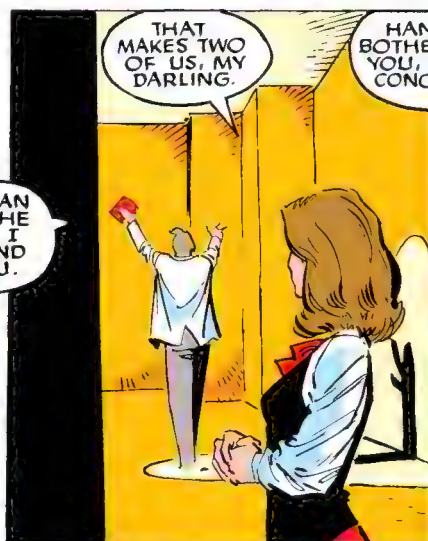
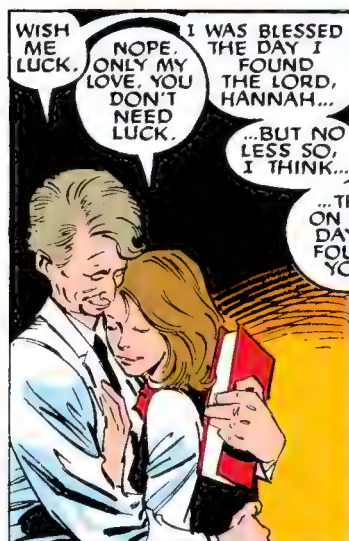
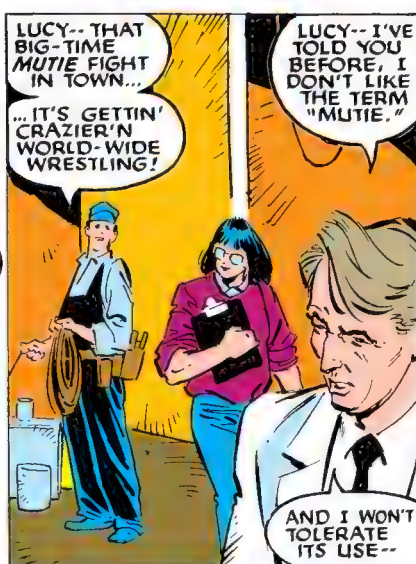
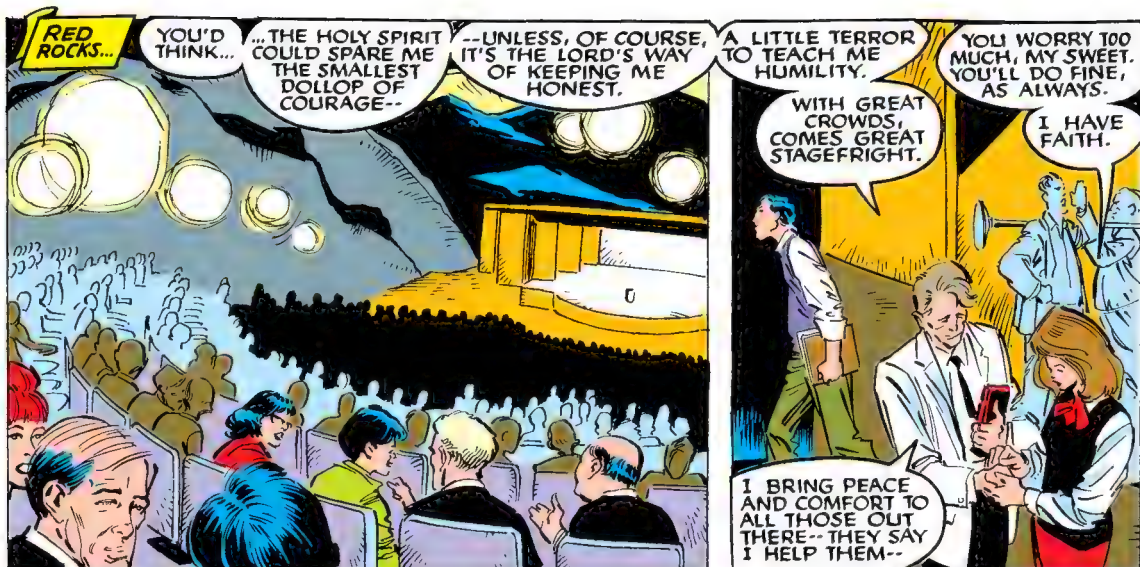
ABANDONED, AND ALONE.

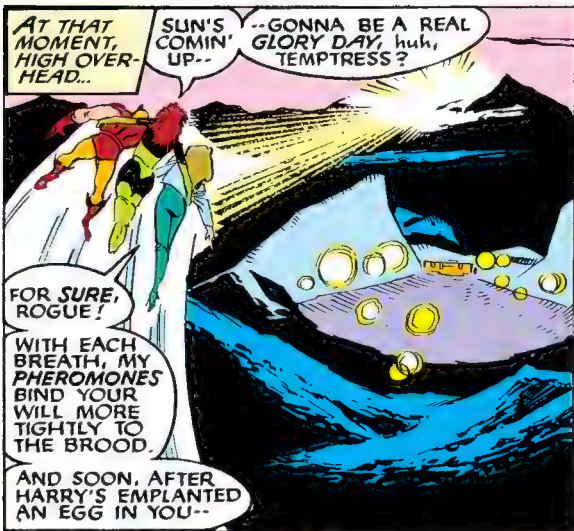


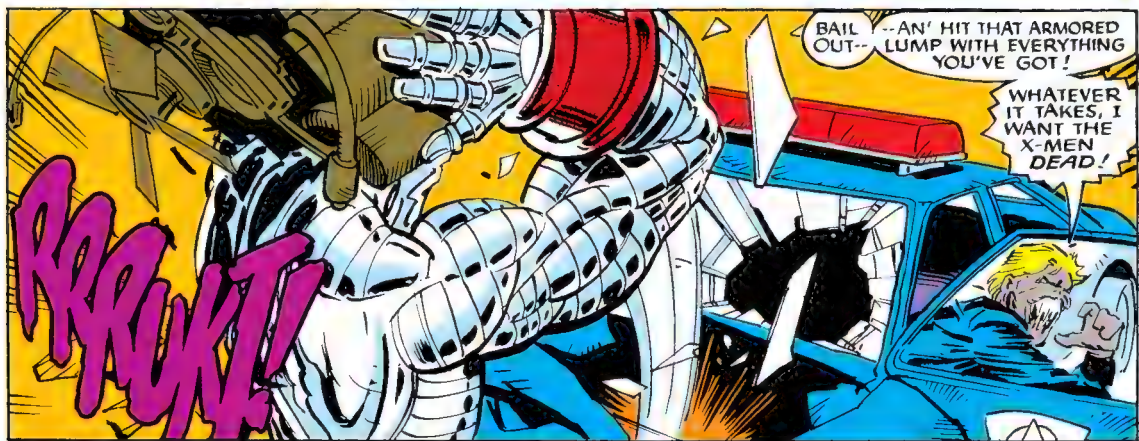
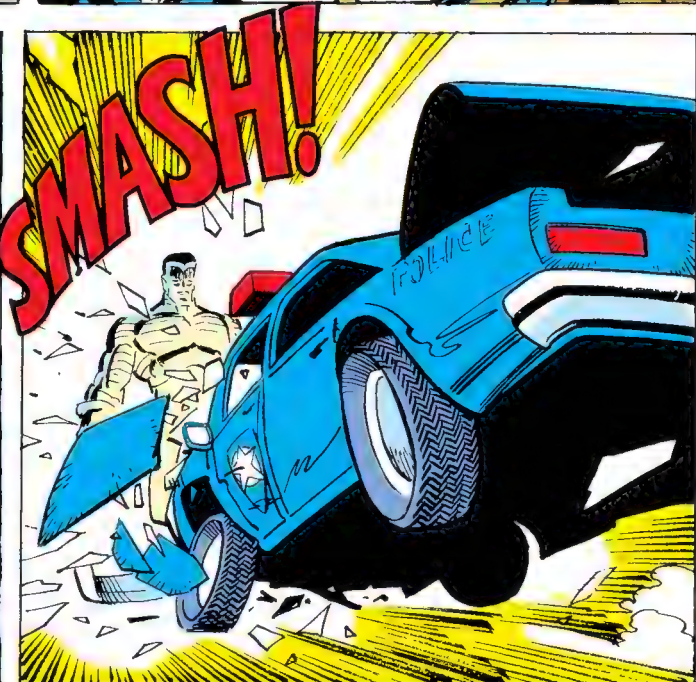
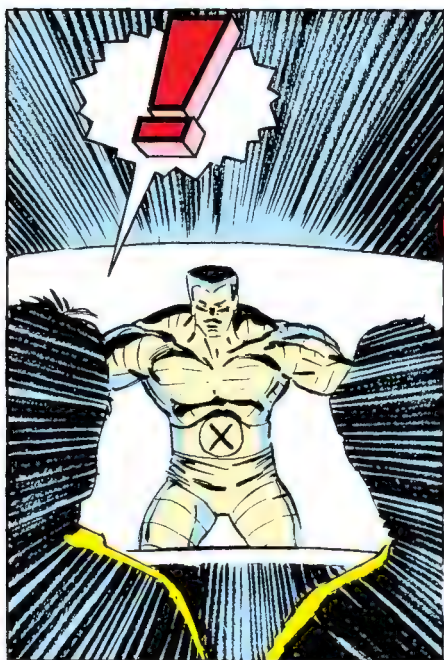


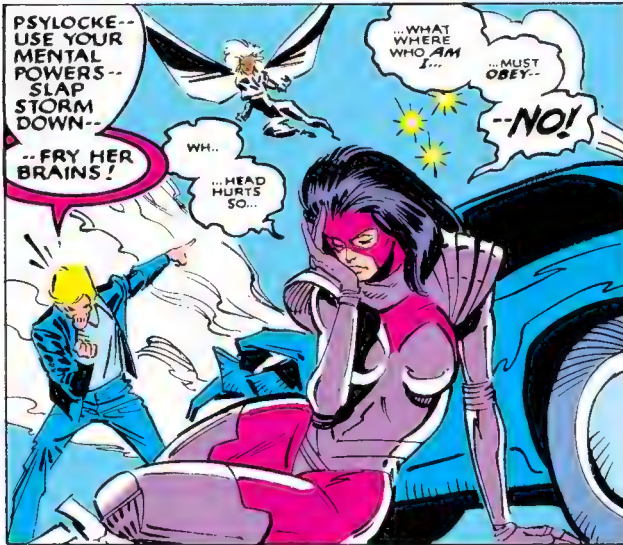


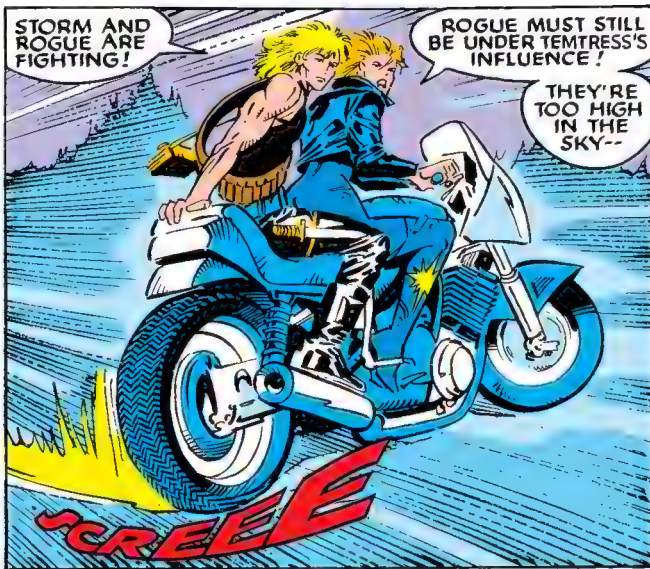








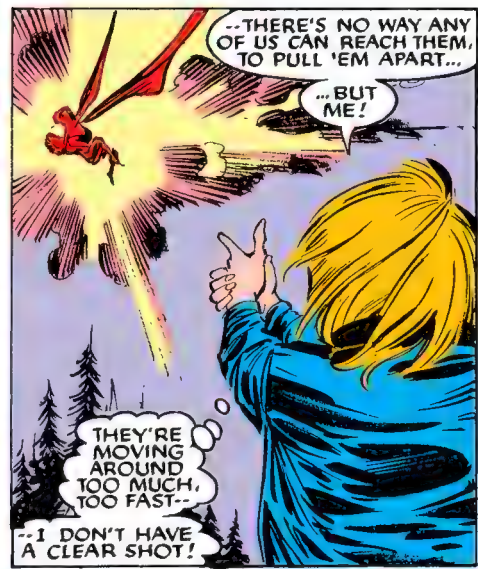




STORM AND ROGUE ARE FIGHTING!

ROGUE MUST STILL BE UNDER TEMTRESS'S INFLUENCE!

THEY'RE TOO HIGH IN THE SKY--

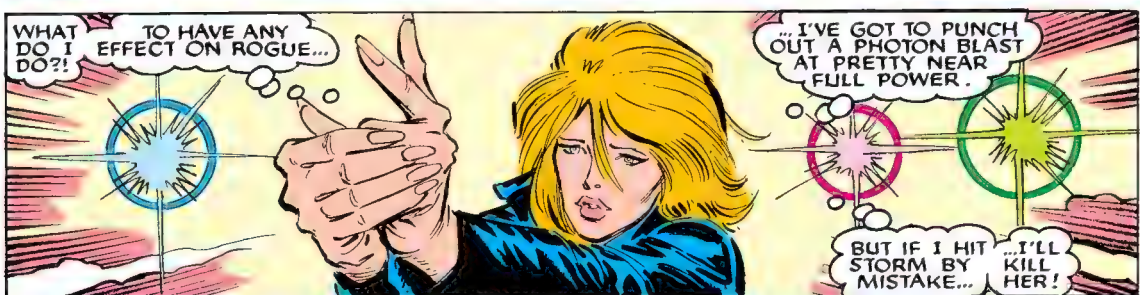


--THERE'S NO WAY ANY OF US CAN REACH THEM, TO PULL 'EM APART...

...BUT ME!

THEY'RE MOVING AROUND TOO MUCH, TOO FAST--

--I DON'T HAVE A CLEAR SHOT!

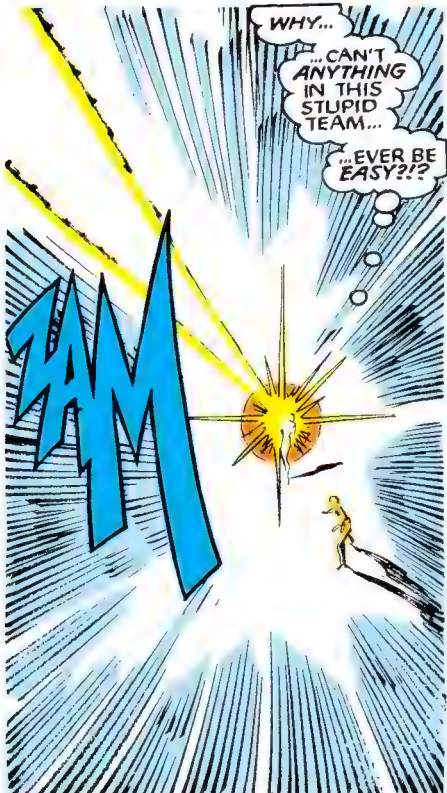


WHAT DO I DO?!

TO HAVE ANY EFFECT ON ROGUE...

...I'VE GOT TO PUNCH OUT A PHOTON BLAST AT PRETTY NEAR FULL POWER.

BUT IF I HIT STORM BY MISTAKE... I'LL KILL HER!



WHY...

...CAN'T ANYTHING IN THIS STUPID TEAM...

...EVER BE EASY???



OW!



SOMETHING EXPLODED INNA SKY!

BUT WHY NO SOUND--?!

THE FIGHT IN DENVER--

--COULD IT BE SPREADING OUT HERE?!

WHERE CAN WE GO?

WHAT CAN WE DO?!

HOW CAN WE PROTECT OURSELVES?!!

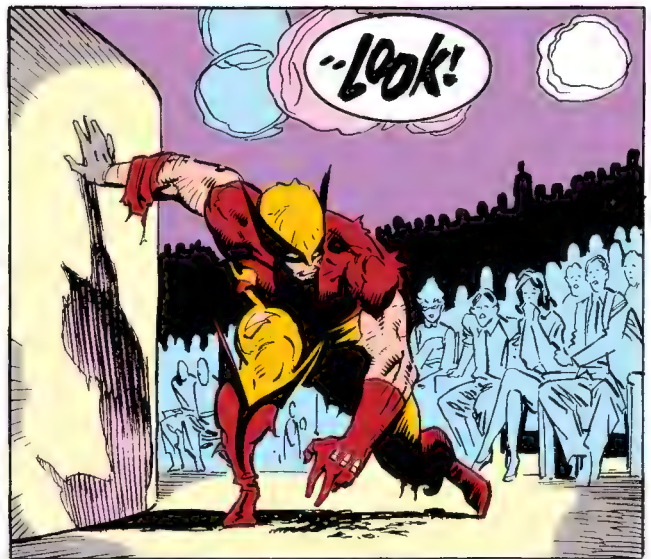


BRETHREN-- PLEASE--
STAY CALM!

THE WORST
THING ANY OF
US CAN DO
IS PANIC.

REVEREND--
OK MY
HEAVEN--

--BELOW
THE
STAGE--



--Look!



FELLA LOOKS
IN
PRETTY
ROUGH
SHAPE,
BILL.

BETTER
KEEP YOUR
DISTANCE.

HE
NEEDS
HELP!

WE'VE CALLED
THE COPS AND
THE PARA-
MEDICS.

LISTEN TO
'EM, MAN--

--STAY
AWAY!



LOOKIT
THAT
OUTFIT--

-- BET
HE'S A
MUTIE!

I DON'T
CARE.

LISTEN
TO ME--

--NOTHING
YOU CAN DO--
INSIDE ME--
GROWING--

-- EATING
ME ALIVE!

POOR
FELLA
MUST
MEAN
DRUGS.

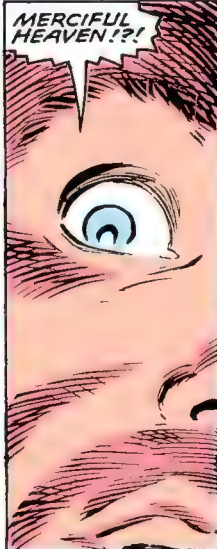


PERHAPS
PRAYER
WILL
HELP HIM
THROUGH
THE
WITHDRAWL.

HEAR ME,
O LORD,
AND IN THY
MERCY...

...CAST OUT THE
DEMONS
TORMENTING
THIS POOR
SOUL--!

TOO
LATE!

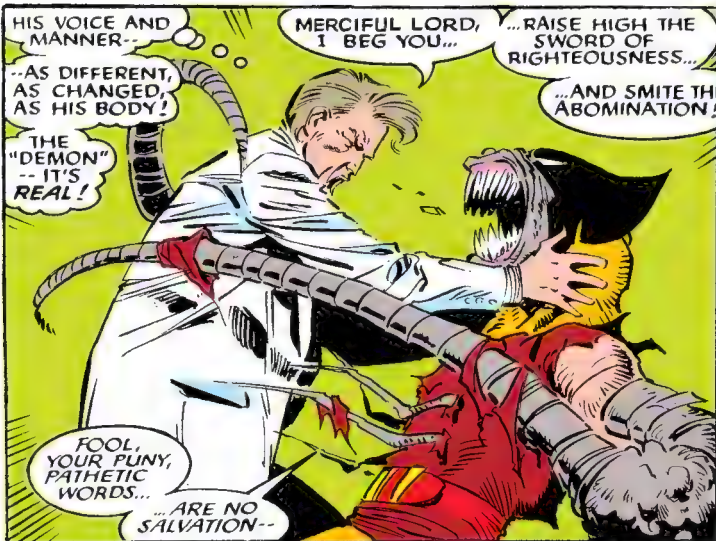


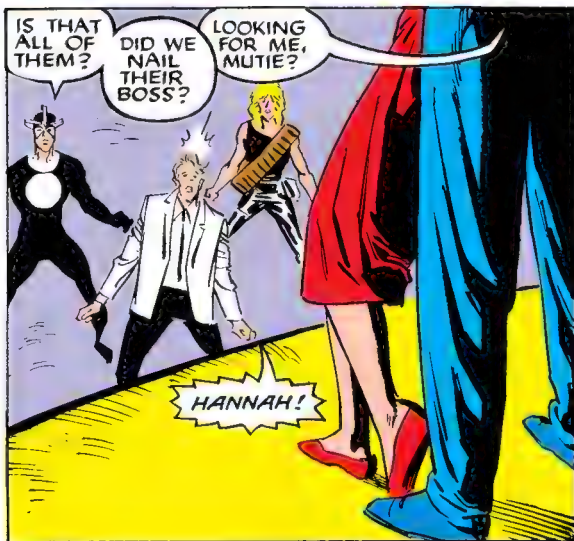
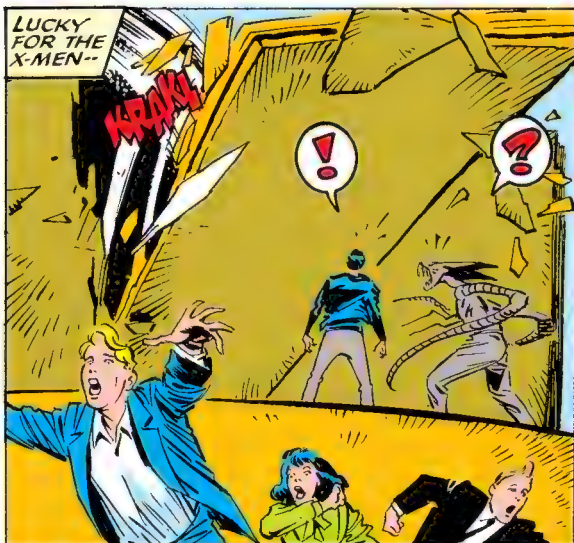
MERCIFUL
HEAVEN!?!



BEHOLD,
HUMAN, THE
SHAPE OF
YOUR
WORLD TO
COME.

SUCH A
SHAME
YOU WON'T
BE ALIVE
TO SEE
IT.







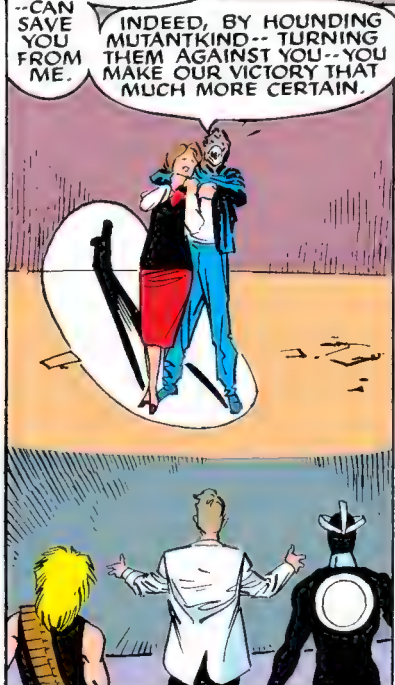
CONSIDER US THE NEW MASTERS OF YOUR WORLD.

THE DAYS OF HUMAN HEGEMONY ARE OVER.

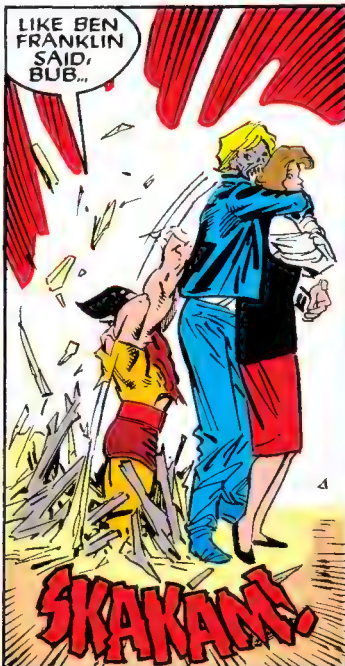
AND NOT YOUR VAUNTED TECHNOLOGY, NOR YOUR SUPER-BEINGS--

--NOR EVEN THE MUTANT OFFSPRING OF YOUR MISBEGOTTEN RACE--

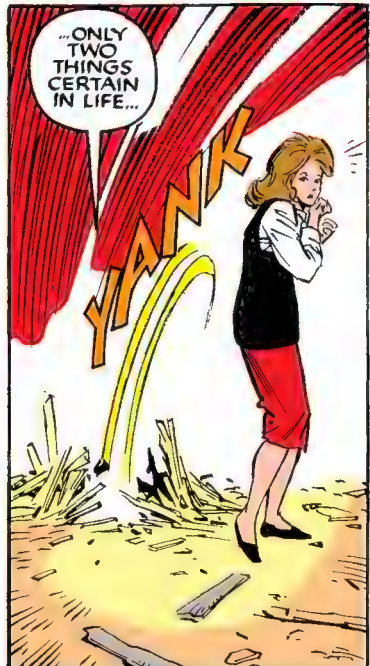
--CAN SAVE YOU FROM ME.



INDEED, BY HOUNDING MUTANTKIND-- TURNING THEM AGAINST YOU--YOU MAKE OUR VICTORY THAT MUCH MORE CERTAIN.



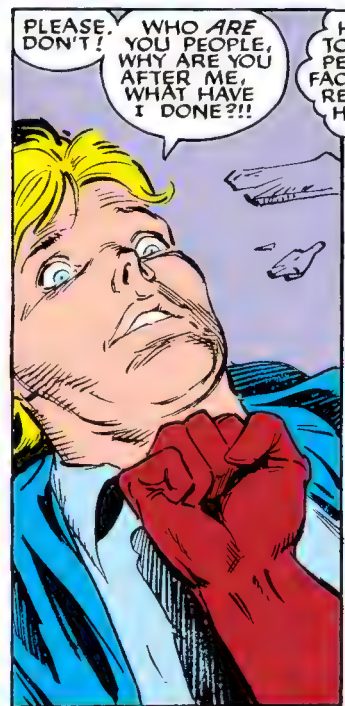
LIKE BEN FRANKLIN SAID, BUB...



--ONLY TWO THINGS CERTAIN IN LIFE...



...AN' THIS AIN'T TAXES.



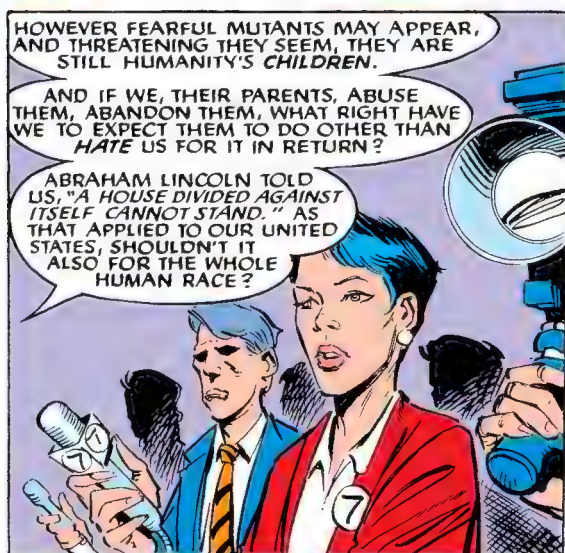
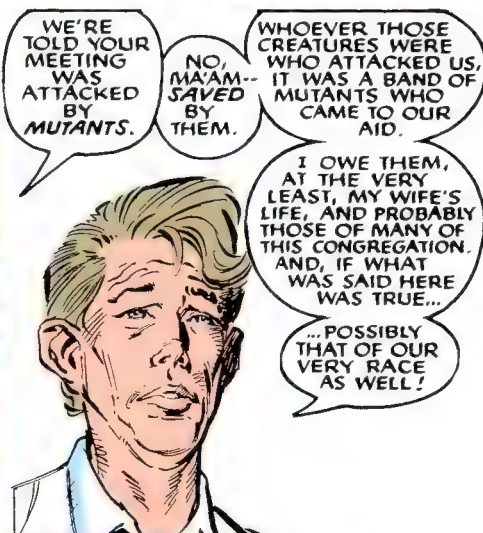
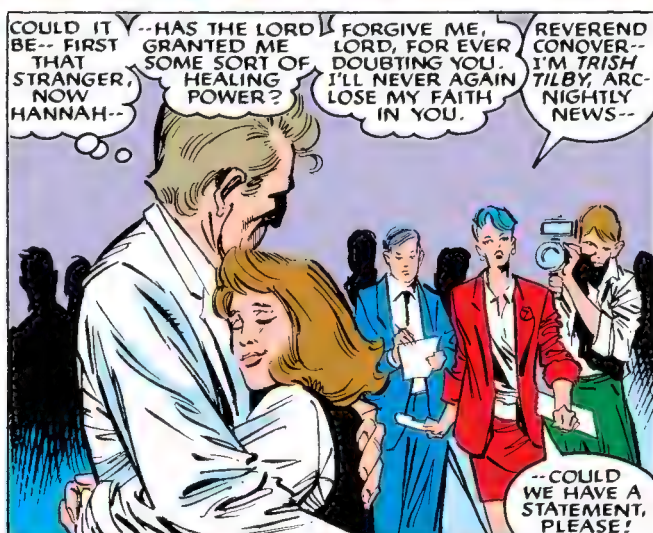
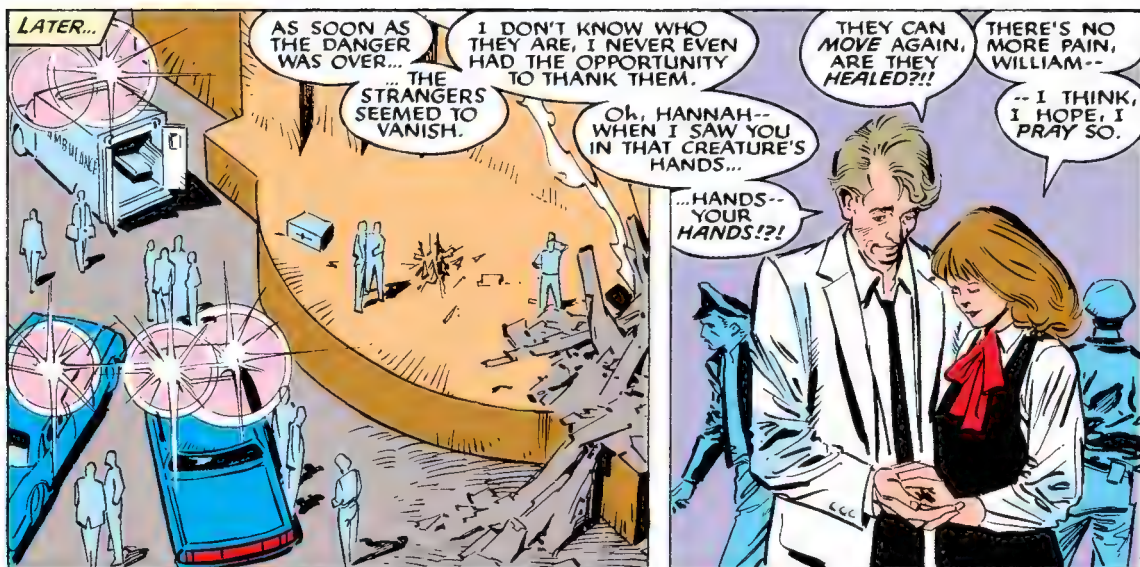
PLEASE, DON'T! WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE, WHY ARE YOU AFTER ME, WHAT HAVE I DONE??!



HE'S REVERTED TO HIS HUMAN PERSONA-- THE FACADE. HE DOESN'T REMEMBER WHO HE REALLY IS.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, BUB. HARRY PALMER DIED A LONG TIME AGO.

NOW, AT LAST, HE'LL HAVE HIS CHANCE TO REST IN PEACE.

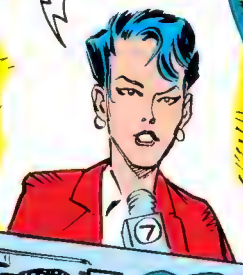


AUSTRALIA... WITH THOSE WORDS, REVEREND WILLIAM CONOVER PLACED HIMSELF AND HIS GLORY DAY, MINISTRY...

...SQUARELY ON THE SIDE OF THE MUTANT RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND AGAINST THE MAIN-STREAM OF POPULAR AMERICAN OPINION.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IS WHETHER THIS DECLARATION--THE FIRST SUCH BY ANY MAJOR RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL FIGURE--WILL HAVE A MORE WIDE-SPREAD AND LASTING EFFECT.

IF THIS REPORTER MAY BE PERMITTED A PERSONAL OBSERVATION: I FERVENTLY HOPE SO.



"HOME AGAIN, HUMBLE AS IT IS, HOME AGAIN, NOthin' EVER JIGGETY-JIG." LOOKED BETTER.

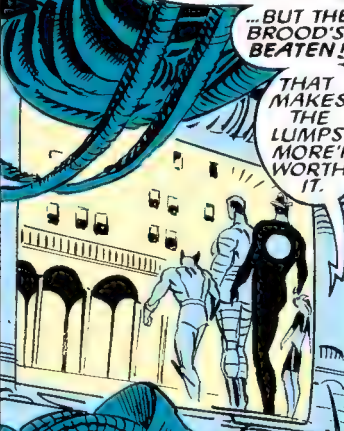
AH TELL Y'ALL, AH'M BEAT AS CAN BE...

...BUT THE BROOD'S BEATEN!

THAT MAKES THE LUMPS MORE'N WORTH IT.

WHAT LUMPS, ROGUE? YOU GAVE LOTS BETTER THAN YOU GOT.

HEY, GIMME A BREAK, GUY, IT WASN'T MY FAULT, AH WAS POSSESSED!



YOU DID GOOD, HAVOK.

WHY, BECAUSE I KILLED?

YOU DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE.

AND THAT'S SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME FEEL PROUD?



SORRY, WOLVERINE, I'M AFRAID ALL I FEEL RIGHT NOW...

...IS SICK.

AND SO, THE X-MEN RETURN, TO THEIR TOWN WHERE NOTHING IS WHAT IT SEEMS...

...CELEBRATING THEIR VICTORY ABOVE...




...WHILE BLISSFULLY UNAWARE OF THE NIGHTMARE SPAWNING BELOW...

...WHERE MADELYNE PRYOR LIES...

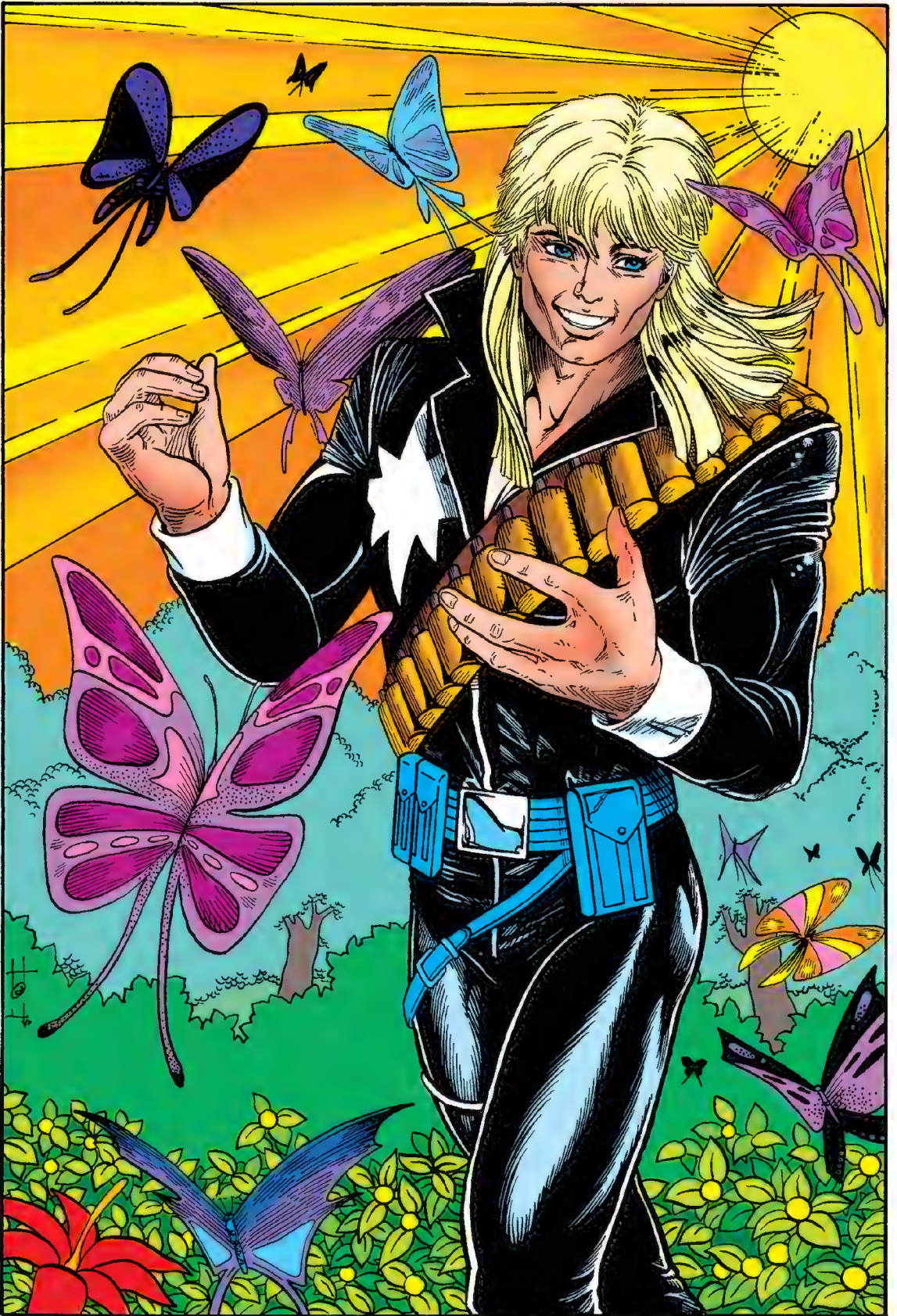
...MORE THAN ALIVE, LESS THAN DEAD...

...TRANSFIGURED BY A DREAM...

...THAT'S FAST ON THE WAY TO BECOMING REALITY.



NEXT: A GREEN & PLEASANT LAND ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS!



Marvel Fanfare #38 pinup by Colleen Doran & Petra Scotese

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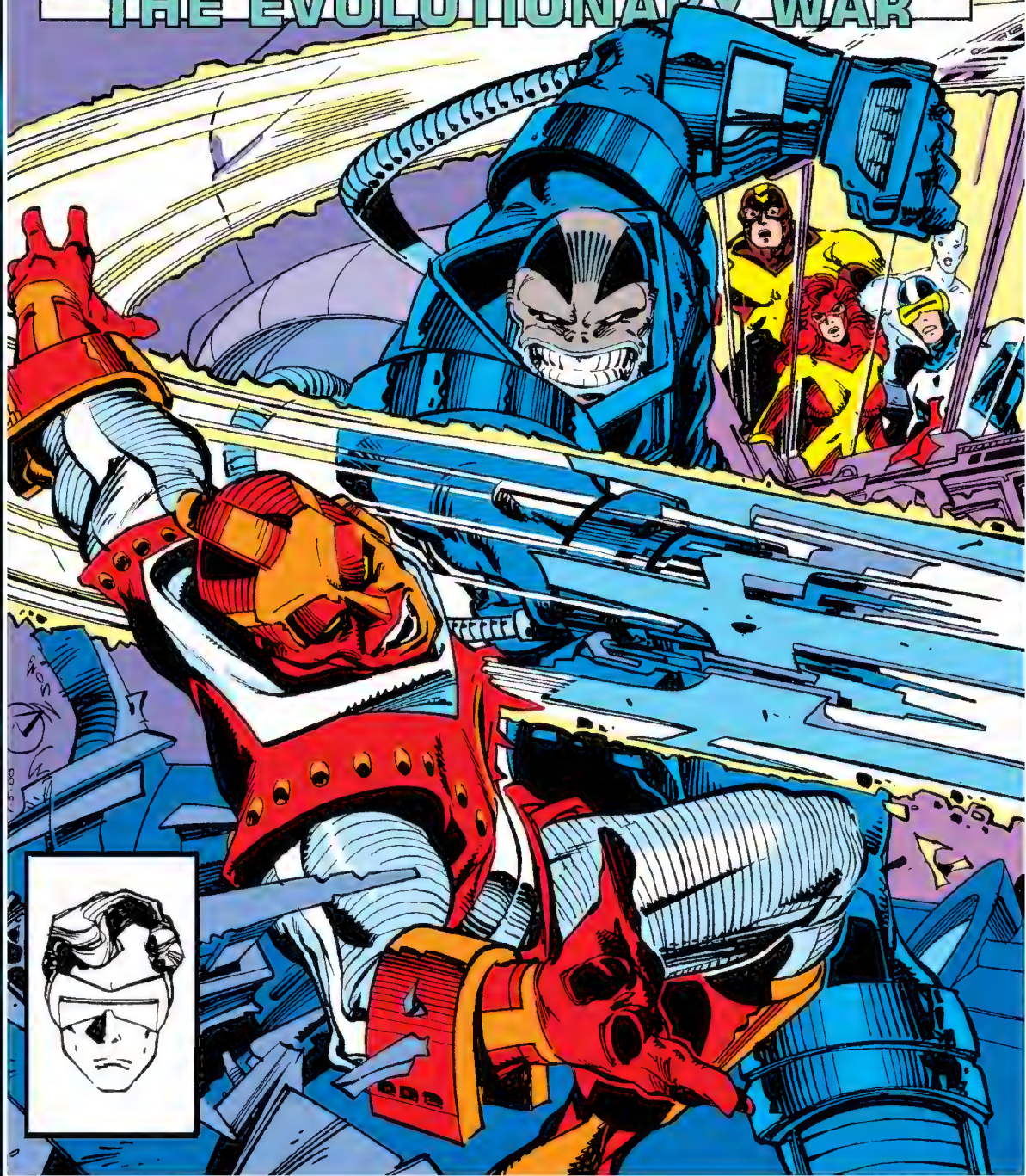
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64
PAGES

X FACTOR

THE EVOLUTIONARY WAR



UNNATURAL SELECTION

FAR UNDER-
GROUND...

I DEMAND AN
EXPLANATION, STACK!
YOUR GATHERERS
INFORMED US THAT
THESE SUBTERRANEAN
CREATURES WERE
ENTIRELY DOCILE.

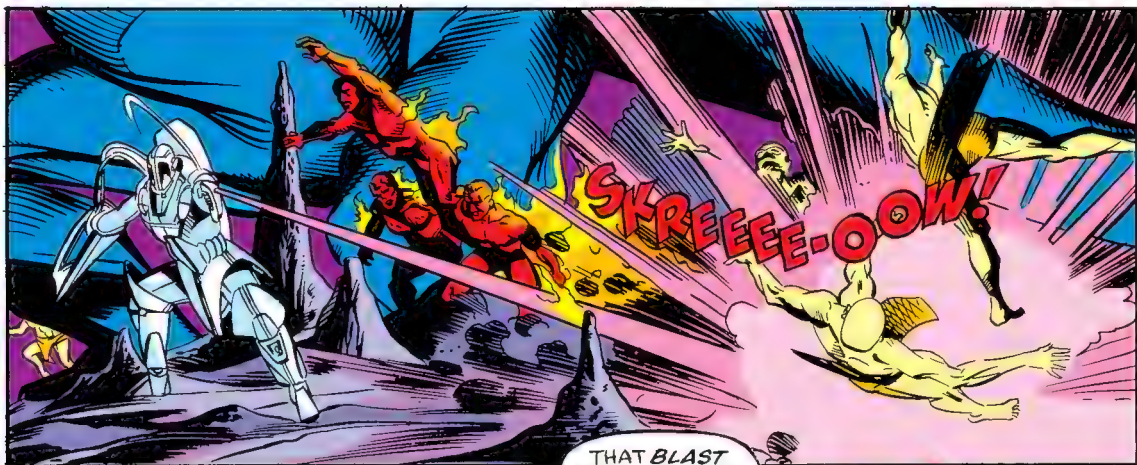
YET LOOK AT
THEM-- SWARM-
ING ALL OVER
US!

SKRKEEE-OOW!

THOUSANDS
OF THEM-- LIKE
ROACHES! ONLY
OUR SUPERIOR
PURIFIER TECHNOLO-
GY PREVENTS OUR
BEING OVER-
WHELMED.

PULL
BACK,
YOU
FOOL!

LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER TERRY SHOEMAKER PENCILER AL MILGROM INKER JOE ROSEN LETTERER PETRA SCOTESE COLORIST BOB HARRAS EDITOR TOM DEFALCO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



THAT BLAST
WON'T STOP ALL
OF THEM! HE'S LET
THEM GET TOO
CLOSE!



EXPLAIN THAT,
STACK! WHEN ONE
SUBTERRANEAN
FALLS IN THE
ATTACK, ANOTHER
RISES TO TAKE
HIS PLACE!



IT WILL PAIN OUR MASTER
TO LEARN OF THE INADE-
QUACIES OF HIS PURIFIER
TROOPS...

...THAT
THEY CANNOT DEFEAT
BARE-HANDED IMBECILES.

IMBECILES,
PERHAPS, BUT
SOME OF THEM
BREATHE
FIRE!

THOSE LAVA-
MEN ARE THE
ONLY INHERENT-
LY DANGEROUS
ONES, MAJOR
PURGE.

THE OTHERS
HAVE NO WEAPONS
...ONLY FORCE OF
NUMBERS ON
THEIR SIDES!

THEY'RE ALL PART OF A
GENETICALLY ALTERED SLAVE
RACE, CREATED LONG AGO
BY BEINGS KNOWN AS
THE DEVIANTS.



THE SMALL YELLOW
ONES -- THE MOLDIDS
AND TYRANNIDS --
EVOLVED ALONG
SIMILAR LINES...AND
LOST THE ABILITY
TO SPEAK.

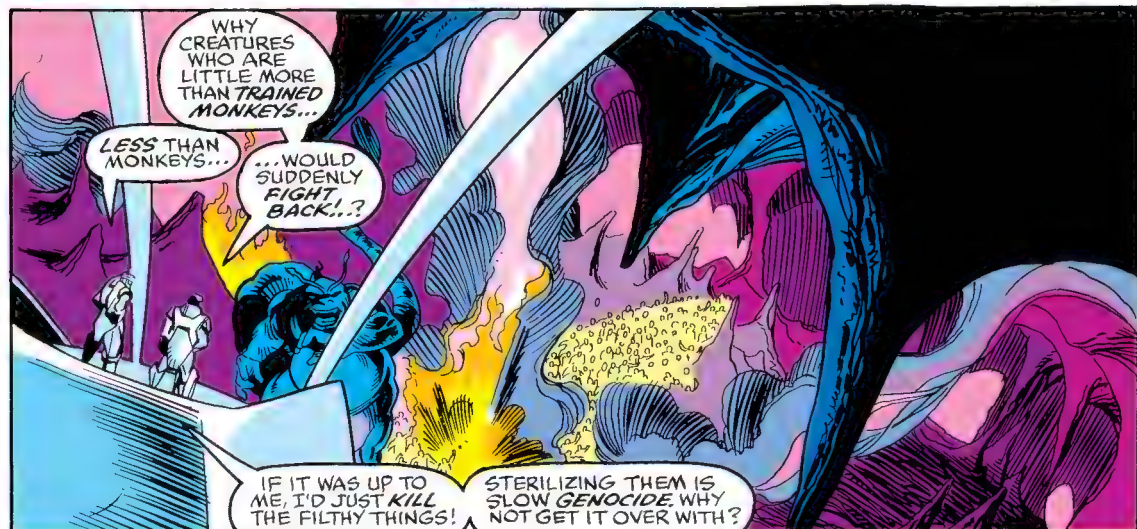
THE OTHERS --
THROUGH PURPORTED-
LY ARCANIC MEANS--
EVOLVED INTO THOSE
FLAMING LAVA
CREATURES.
FASCINATING,
IF TRUE...

THAT MINDLESS
DRAGON-LIKE CREA-
TURE...AND OTHER
MONSTERS OF HIS ILK...
ARE THE RESULT OF
OTHER DEVIANT
EXPERIMENTS.

I'M SURE YOU
FIND THE EXISTENCE
OF SUCH CREATURES
FASCINATING, STACK,
BUT I DO NOT!

WE PURIFIERS
INTRODUCED THE
STERILIZER RAY TO
THESE TUNNELS, BUT
HAVE YET TO COMPLETE
OUR TASK, BECAUSE OF
THE FAULTY INTELLIGENCE
SUPPLIED BY YOUR MEN--

SKREEE-OOW!



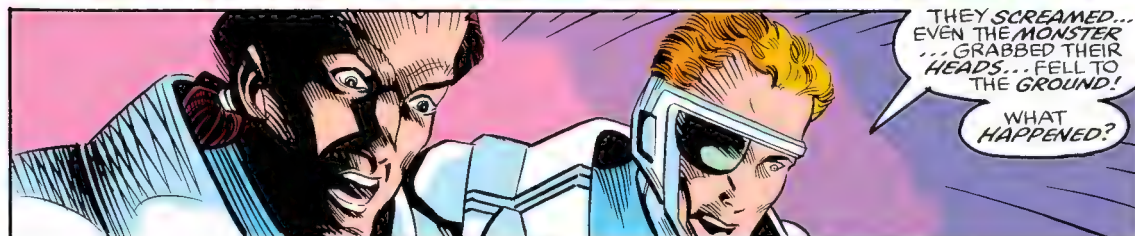
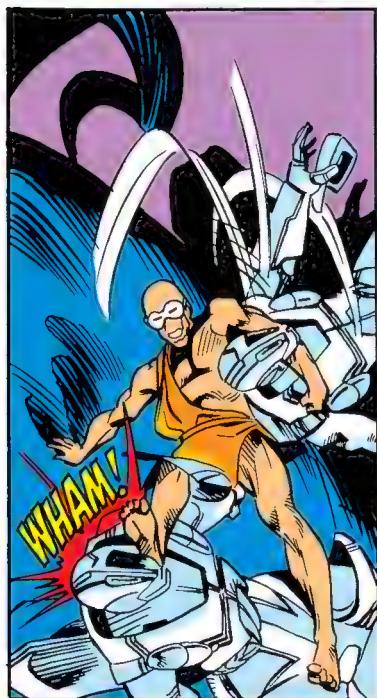
THAT, FORTUNATELY, IS OUT OF YOUR HANDS. THE MASTER'S STRICT ORDERS FORBID US TO INITIATE VIOLENCE.

THAT NO LONGER IS A PROBLEM, SINCE THOSE ANIMALS ARE THE INITIATORS.

THEY'RE ATTACKING US WITH THEIR BARE HANDS. IT'S AS IF THEY WANT TO DIE!

SKREE-OW!

SKREE-OW!

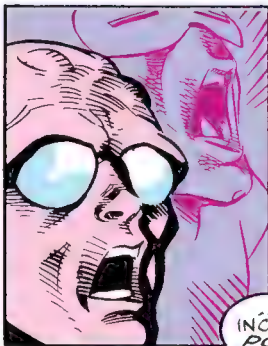


AND FAR ABOVE,
ON THE EARTH'S
SURFACE...

WHAT
IS THAT?



A
PSYCHIC
SCREAM...



...OF
INCREDIBLE
POWER!



SOME'ODY'S
HURT...DOWN
UNDER
THE
GROUND.



A SCREAM OF THAT
INTENSITY MUST
HAVE JOLTED
EVERY SENSITIVE
ON EARTH!



A MUTANT!
THE ONE WHO
CRIES OUT IS
A MUTANT!



IT COMES FROM
THE CAVERNS
BELOW. ARE
THOSE ON THE
EARTH BELOW
BLIND AND
DEAF...

"...THAT THEY
CANNOT HEAR?"

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



DON'T
YOU READ
THE
PAPERS?

X-FACTOR'S
RAISING THE
BEAMS TO
BEGIN THE
RESTORATION
OF THE EMPIRE
STATE BUILD-
ING...

...BUT IT
LOOKS TO ME
LIKE THE RED-
HEAD BABE'S
HANDLING THE
JOB ALL BY
HER LONE-
SOME.

NO!
OH NO!
LOOK!



AARGH!

EEEEEEEEEE!

SOMETHING'S
GONE WRONG!

THEY'RE
FALLING!

SHE'S
DROPPING
THEM!

RUN!



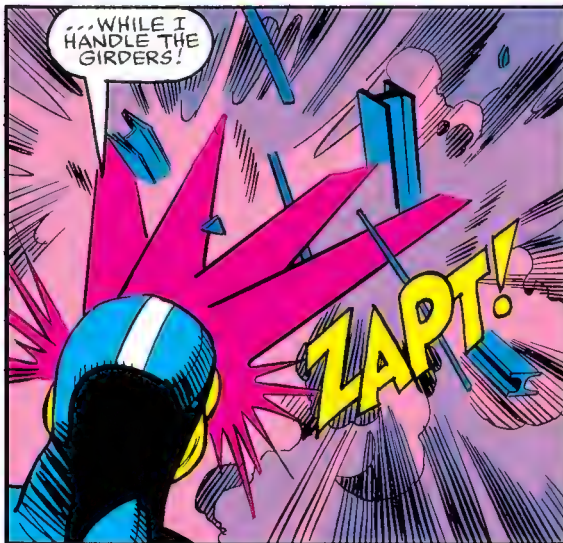
AAARGH!

MARVEL
GIRL--JEAN
--WHAT'S
WRONG?

SHE'S UN-
CONSCIOUS!



ICEMAN--
MAKE SURE
WE DON'T HIT
THE GROUND...

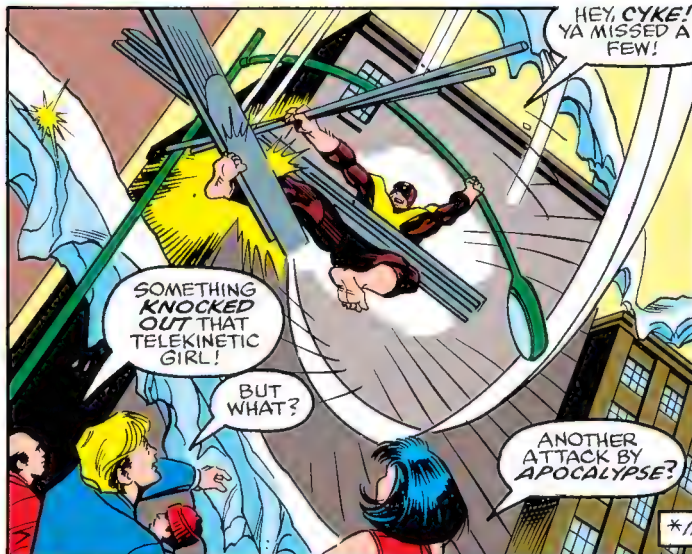


...WHILE I
HANDLE THE
GIRDERS!

ZAPT!



I READ
YOU, CYCLOPS!
ONE ICE SLIDE,
COMING UP!



HEY, CYKE!
YA MISSED A
FEW!

SOMETHING
KNOCKED
OUT THAT
TELEKINETIC
GIRL!

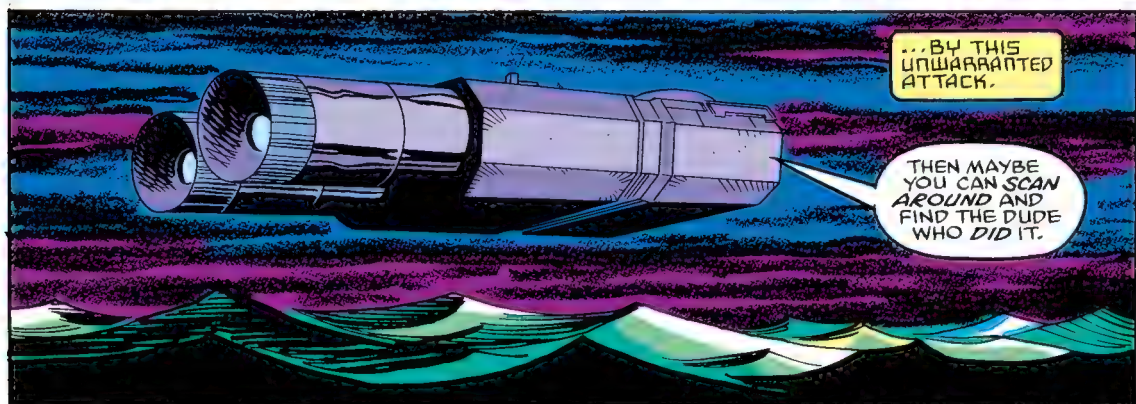
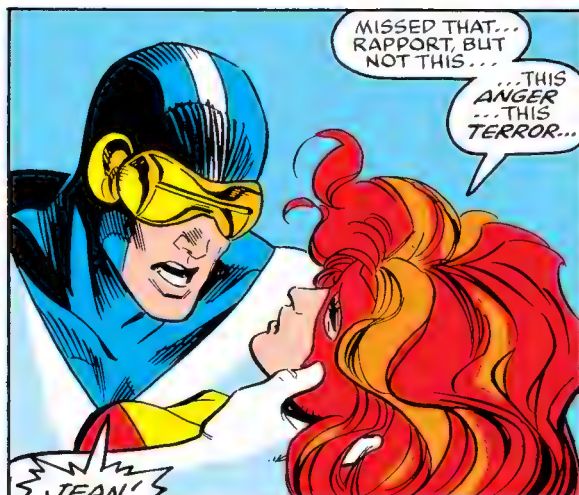
BUT
WHAT?

ANOTHER
ATTACK BY
APOCALYPSE?



HE DECIMATED
THE CITY... SMASHED
THE EMPIRE STATE
BUILDING.* HE MAY
NOT WANT X-FACTOR
PUTTING IT RIGHT.

*IN X-F*25, BOB.



WHILE IN A HIDDEN FORTRESS
ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD...

CALIBAN FELT THE
SCREAM, APOCALYPSE,
UNDISCIPLINED...
MINDLESS ALMOST...
LACKING ANY TRAIN-
ING OR DIRECTION...

... BUT IT CAME FROM
ONE OF OUR OWN... A
MUTANT... WITH **TELE-
PATHIC** ABILITIES TO
CHALLENGE THE MOST
POWERFUL AMONG US.

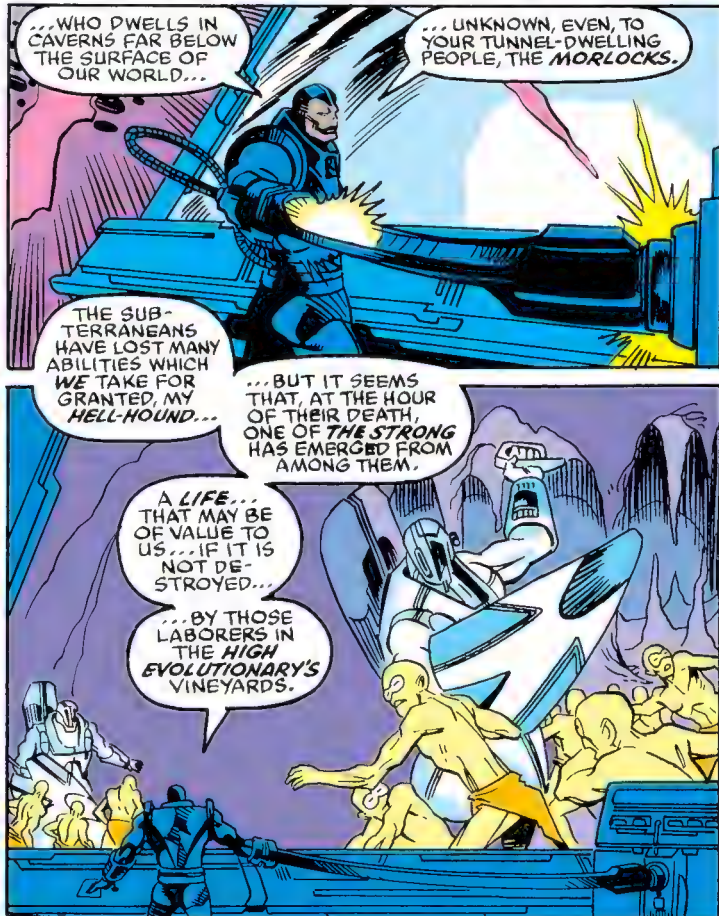


TURN YOUR
PROBE TO THE
WESTERN WORLD,
APOCALYPSE...
THE EASTERN
COAST OF THE
UNITED STATES...

... FAR
BELOW
SEA
LEVEL...

EXCELLENT,
MY **HOUND**. YOU
HAVE SNIFFED
HIM OUT... HUNTED
HIM DOWN.

A **SUBTERRANEAN**...
A CREATURE INCAPABLE
OF ABSTRACT THOUGHT
... A CHILD OF A
SERVANT RACE
CREATED IN
AGES PAST...



... WHO DWELLS IN
CAVERNS FAR BELOW
THE SURFACE OF
OUR WORLD...

... UNKNOWN, EVEN, TO
YOUR TUNNEL-DWELLING
PEOPLE, THE **MORLOCKS**.

THE **SUB-
TERRANEANS**
HAVE LOST MANY
ABILITIES WHICH
WE TAKE FOR
GRANTED, MY
HELL-HOUND...

... BUT IT SEEMS
THAT, AT THE HOUR
OF THEIR DEATH,
ONE OF **THE STRONG**
HAS EMERGED FROM
AMONG THEM.

A **LIFE**...
THAT MAY BE
OF VALUE TO
US... IF IT IS
NOT DE-
STROYED...

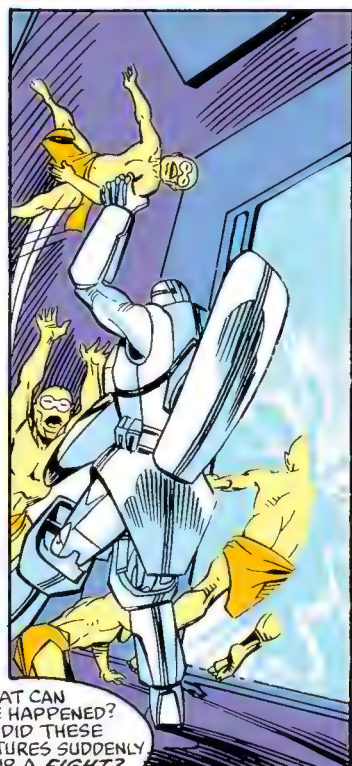
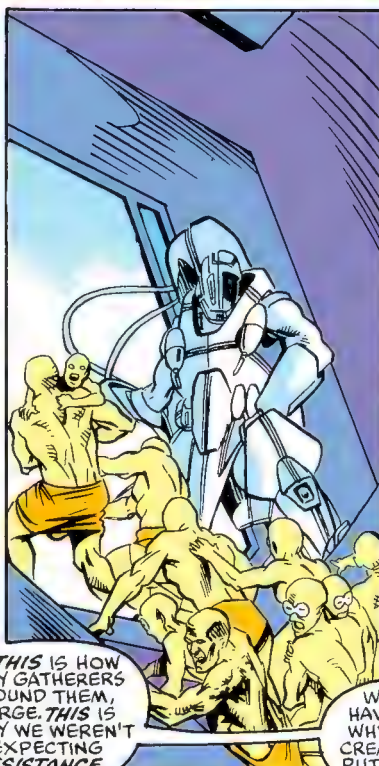
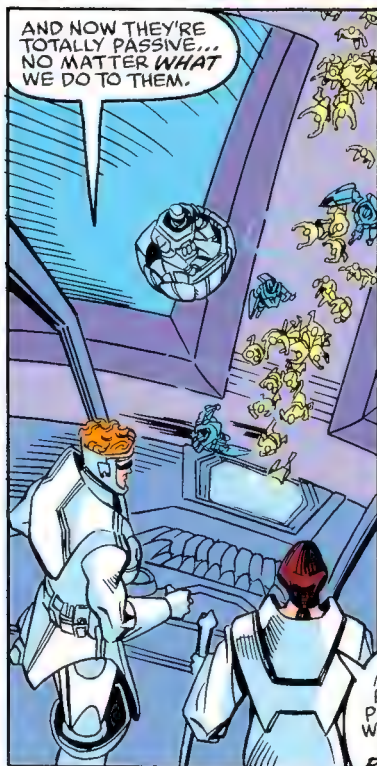
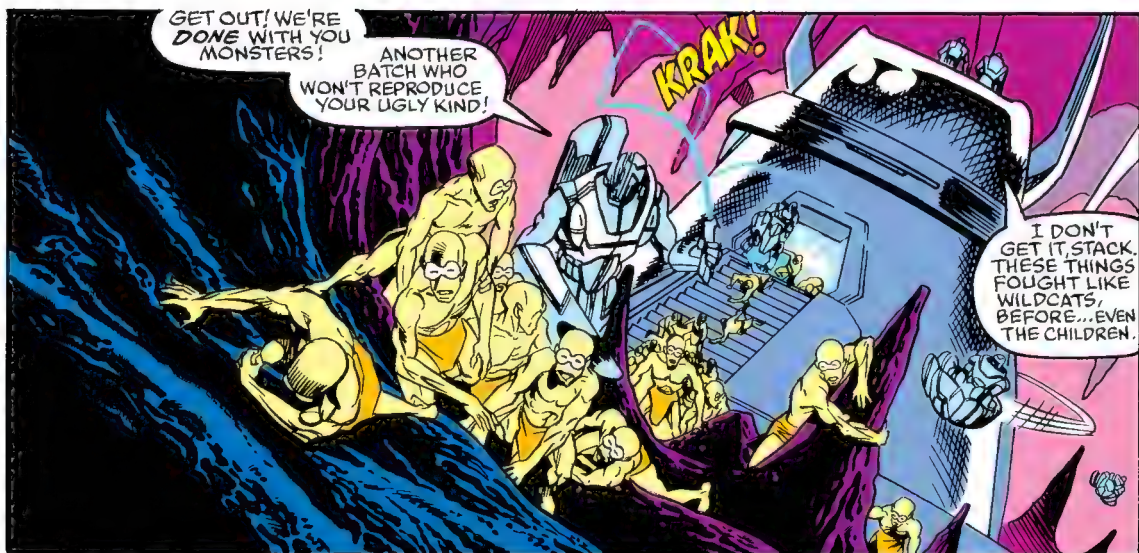
... BY THOSE
LABORERS IN
THE **HIGH
EVOLUTIONARY'S**
VINEYARDS.



LONG HAVE I
MONITORED THE
HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S
ACTIVITIES CONCERN-
ING OUR EARTH.

HIS ALL-
ENCOMPASSING
PLAN FOR THIS WORLD
ONLY RECENTLY BE-
CAME CLEAR TO ME.

AND NOW, AS YOU SEE...
HE HAS BEGUN TO **ACT!**

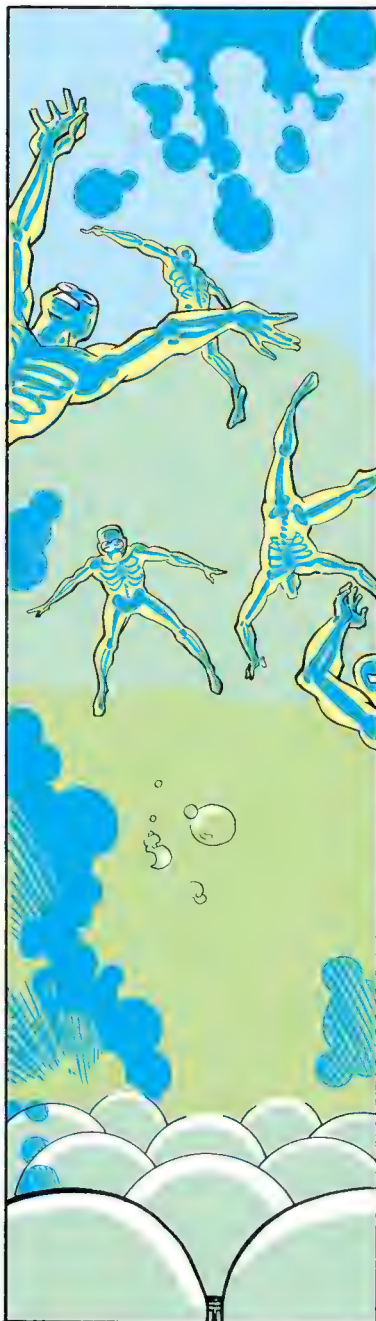




WHO KNOWS HOW MANY *MORE* LURK IN THE CAVES BEYOND THIS ONE? AND IN WHAT *STATE*...?

THEY WON'T LURK THERE FOR LONG!

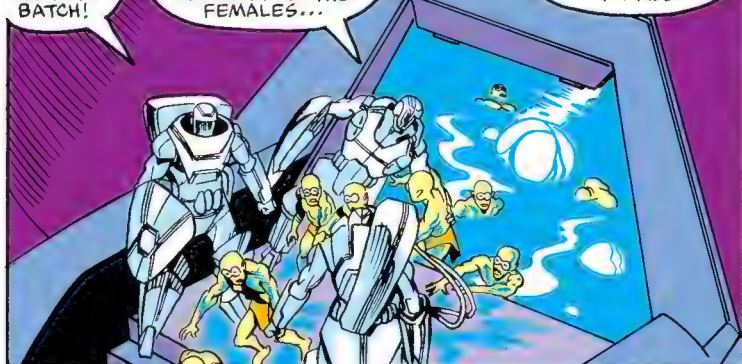
CHONK!



AWRIGHT, FISH 'EM OUT! READY THE NEXT BATCH!

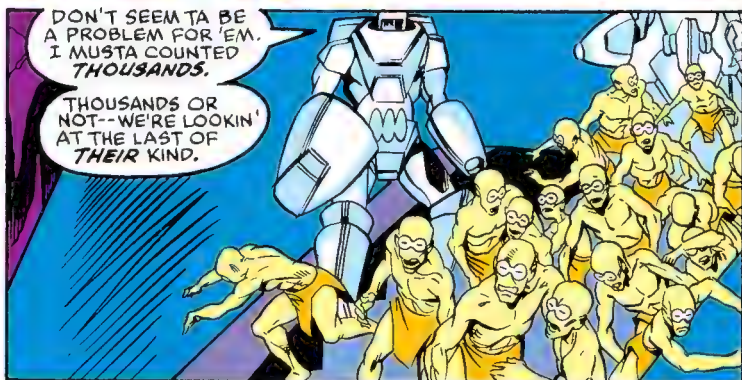
SEEMS *CRAZY* TA *STERILIZE* THE THINGS. YOU CAN'T TELL THE MALES FROM THE FEMALES...

...IT'S A *MIRACLE* THAT THEY MANAGED TO REPRODUCE AT ALL.



DON'T SEEM TA BE A PROBLEM FOR 'EM. I MUSTA COUNTED *THOUSANDS*.

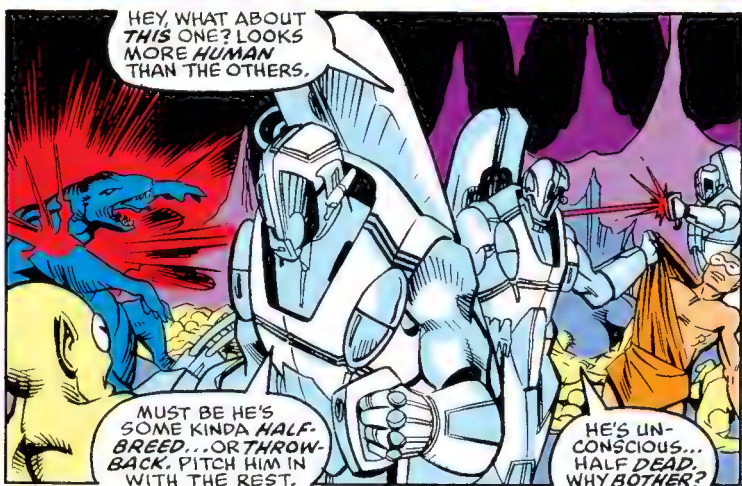
THOUSANDS OR NOT--WE'RE LOOKIN' AT THE LAST OF *THEIR* KIND.

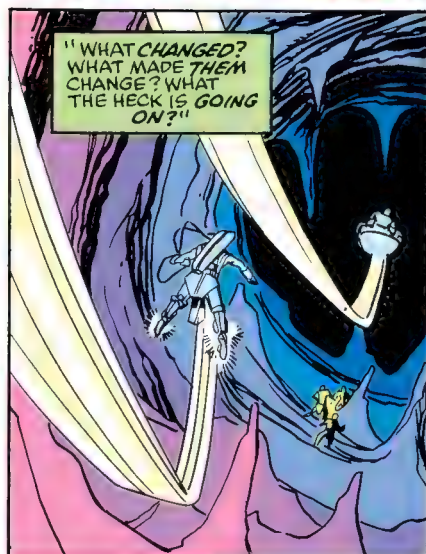
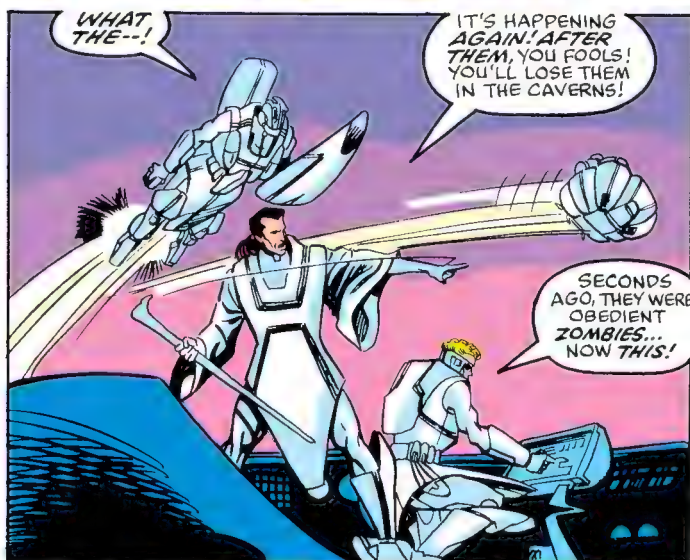
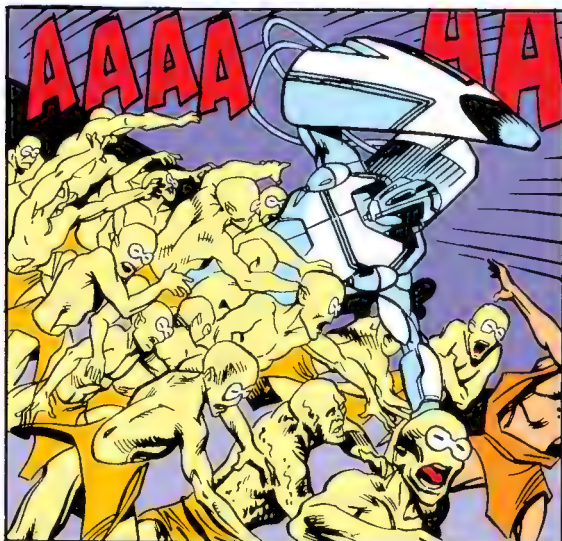
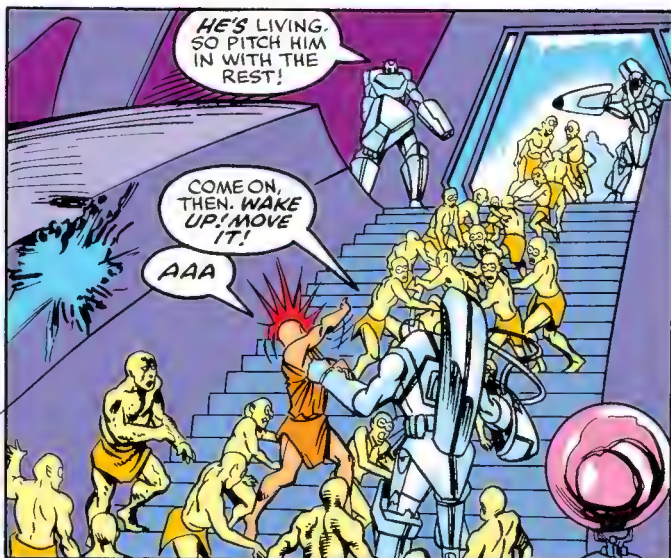
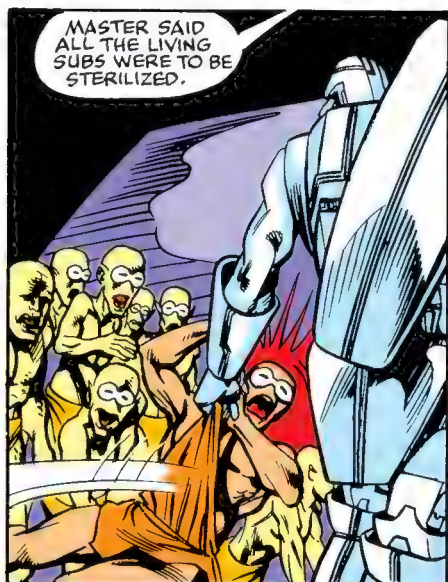


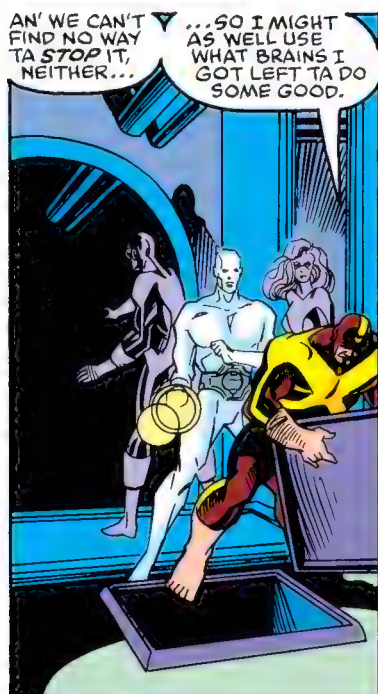
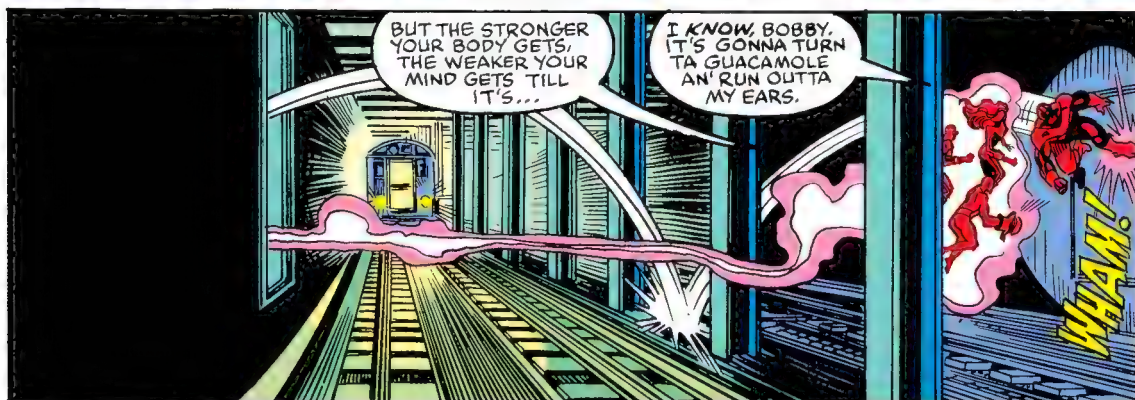
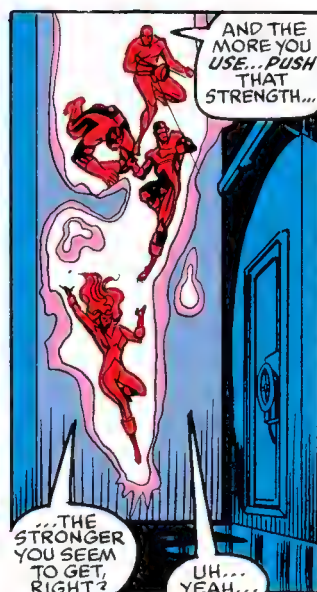
HEY, WHAT ABOUT *THIS* ONE? LOOKS MORE *HUMAN* THAN THE OTHERS.

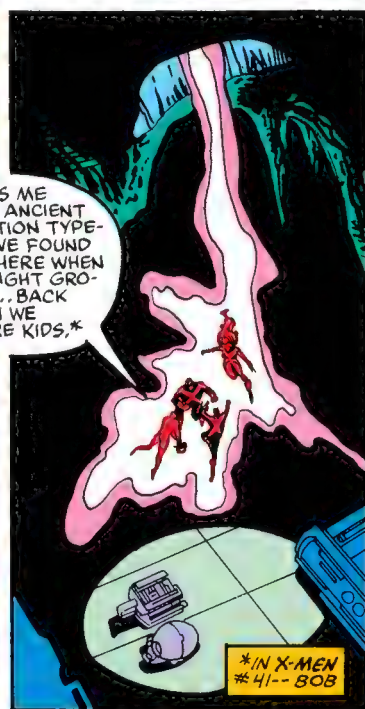
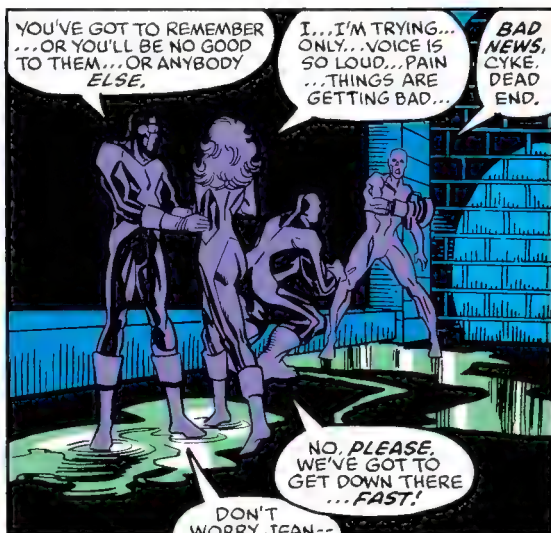
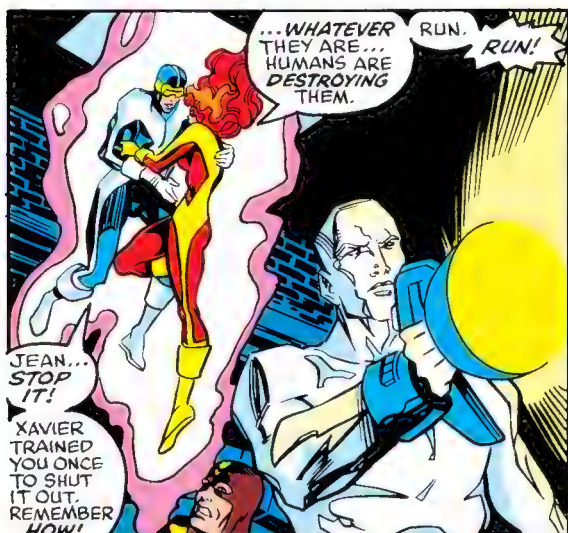
MUST BE HE'S SOME KINDA *HALF-BREED*... OR *THROW-BACK*. PITCH HIM IN WITH THE REST.

HE'S UN-CONSCIOUS... *HALF DEAD*. WHY *BOTHER*?





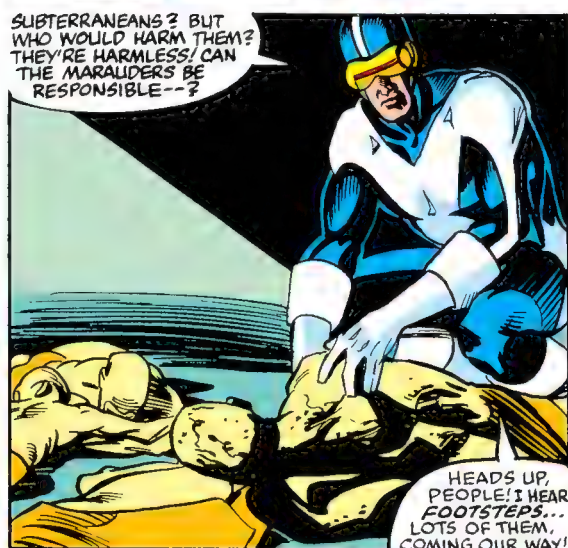






I THINK WE JUST FOUND YOUR TORTURED CREATURES!

BUT... WHO ARE THEY? WHAT ARE THEY?



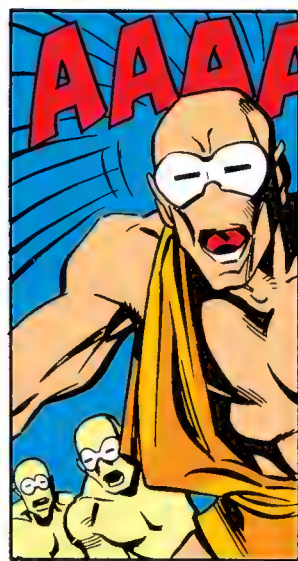
SUBTERRANEANS? BUT WHO WOULD HARM THEM? THEY'RE HARMLESS! CAN THE MARAUDERS BE RESPONSIBLE--?

HEADS UP, PEOPLE! I HEAR FOOTSTEPS... LOTS OF THEM, COMING OUR WAY!



HOLY COW! CYKE... WOULD YOU LOOK AT 'EM ALL!

SCOTT... THE TELEPATH! HE'S THERE... ANGRY... SCARED...



HE... THINKS WE'RE MORE HUMANS WHO'VE COME TO DESTROY THEM! WE... WE ALL LOOK ALIKE TO HIM...

SCOTT-- HE'S PROJECTING OUT... NOT TAKING ANYTHING IN! HE'S JAMMED... HE WON'T LISTEN! HE CAN'T HEAR ME!

HOLY COW! THERE MUST BE A MILLION OF THEM!

MEANWHILE, HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH...

MASTER, WE'VE ENCOUNTERED A PROBLEM IN THE COMPLETION OF OUR PURIFICATION EFFORTS.

THE SUBTERRANEANS, WHO AT FIRST WERE DOCILE, HAVE REBELLED AND HAVE ATTACKED US IN OVERWHELMING NUMBERS.

WE WILL REQUIRE ADVANCED WEAPONRY IF WE'RE TO COMPLETE OUR APPOINTED TASK AND REMOVE THIS GENETIC STAIN FROM THE BOSOM OF OUR EARTH.

HIGH EVOLUTIONARY...

...WE HAVE A PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCE CONCERNING THE EVOLUTION OF MANKIND AND HOW IT MUST PROGRESS.

WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

I AM CALLED APOCALYPSE. I MONITORED YOUR TRANSMISSIONS...AND THEY LED ME HERE.

AS LONG AS MANKIND HAS EXISTED, I AM. WAR AND STRIFE HAVE BEEN MANKIND'S PROVING GROUND.

I HAVE ENCOURAGED THESE THINGS...TO INSURE THAT THE DENIZENS OF THAT WORLD BELOW GROW STRONG.

AH...I HAVE HEARD OF YOU. YOU RECENTLY DEMOLISHED MUCH OF NEW YORK CITY. YOU STAND FOR DESTRUCTION.

WHAT I DO IS FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF ALL MANKIND... AND FOR ITS PROGRESS!

THERE IS YOUR WEAPON, MAJOR PURGE. ITS RESULT WILL BE PAINLESS... AND EFFECTIVE.

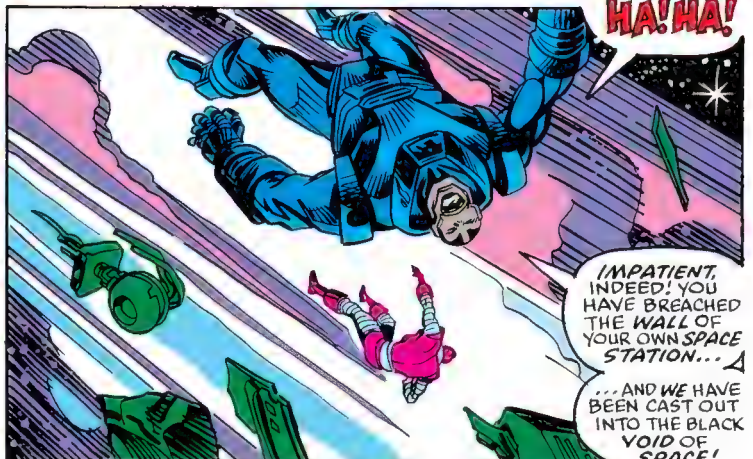
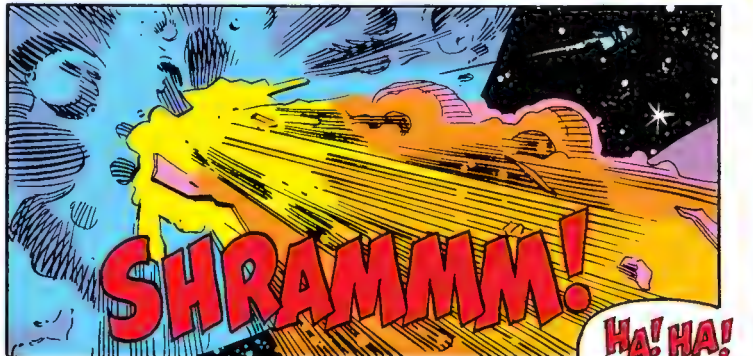
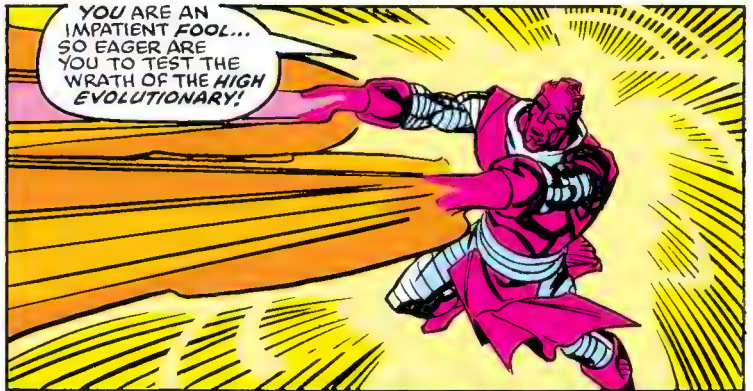
USE IT! MY PLAN FOR OUR EARTH IS VITAL AND ALL EN-COMPASSING...

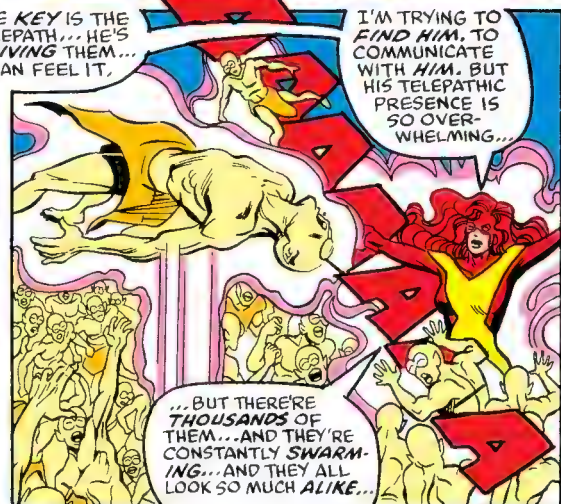
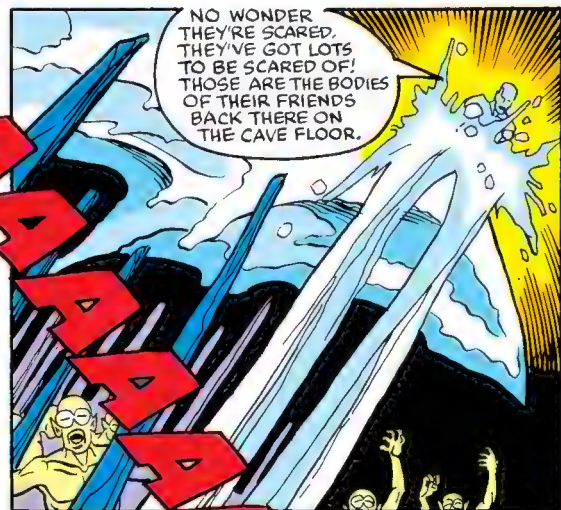
...AND I CANNOT ALLOW THE SUBTERRANEANS' SURVIVAL TO JEOPARDIZE IT.

GO NOW, MAJOR PURGE... BACK INTO THE TUNNELS...

THE SUBTERRANEANS ARE FLAWED...DEVOLVED TO AN ALMOST ANIMAL STATE.

AN EVOLUTIONARY DISASTER THAT MUST BE EXPUNGED.



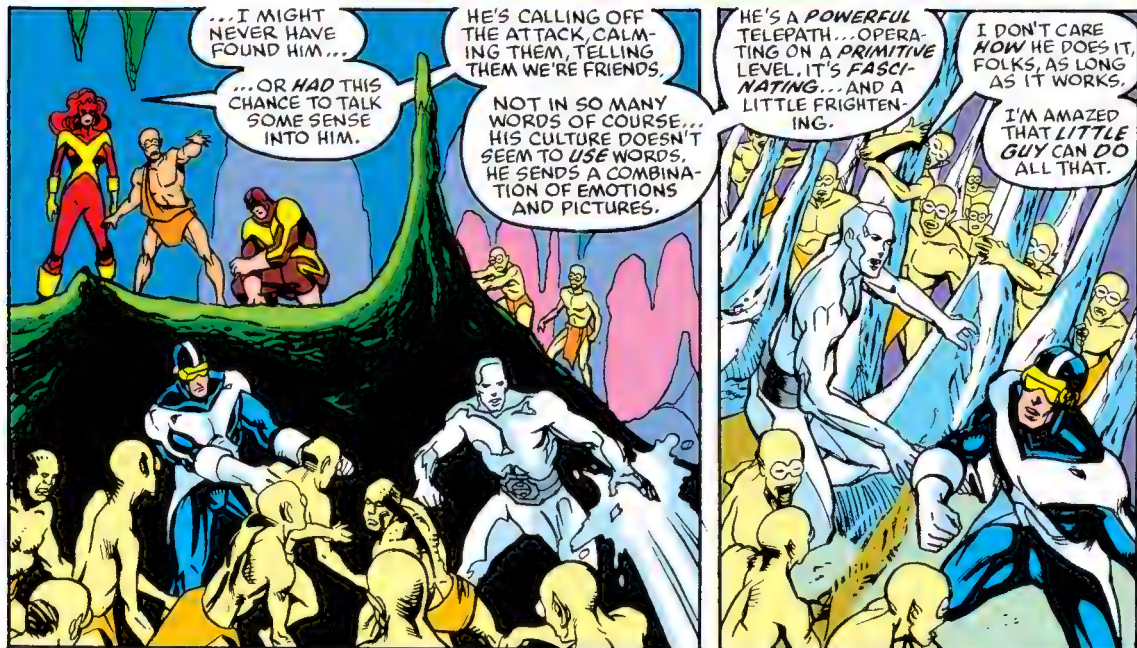






HANK, LISTEN TO ME. IF YOU **HADN'T** GRABBED HIM, **HADN'T** THREATENED HIM...

YOU COULDN'T EVER O' TALKED TO HIM, THEN.



...I MIGHT NEVER HAVE FOUND HIM...

...OR **HAD** THIS CHANCE TO TALK SOME SENSE INTO HIM.

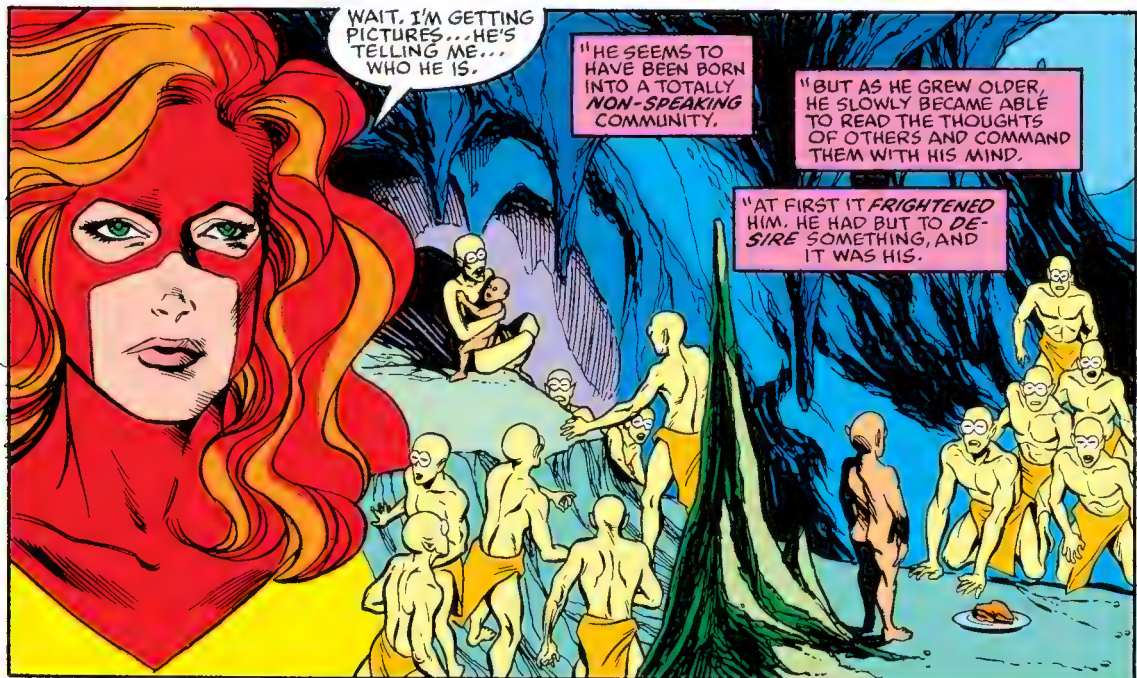
HE'S CALLING OFF THE ATTACK, CALMING THEM, TELLING THEM WE'RE FRIENDS.

NOT IN SO MANY WORDS OF COURSE... HIS CULTURE DOESN'T SEEM TO *USE* WORDS. HE SENDS A COMBINATION OF EMOTIONS AND PICTURES.

HE'S A **POWERFUL** TELEPATH... OPERATING ON A **PRIMITIVE** LEVEL. IT'S **FASCINATING**... AND A LITTLE FRIGHTENING.

I DON'T CARE **HOW** HE DOES IT, FOLKS, AS LONG AS IT WORKS.

I'M AMAZED THAT **LITTLE** GUY CAN DO ALL THAT.



WAIT, I'M GETTING PICTURES... HE'S TELLING ME... WHO HE IS.

"HE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN BORN INTO A TOTALLY **NON-SPEAKING** COMMUNITY.

"BUT AS HE GREW OLDER, HE SLOWLY BECAME ABLE TO READ THE THOUGHTS OF OTHERS AND COMMAND THEM WITH HIS MIND.

"AT FIRST IT **FRIGHTENED** HIM. HE HAD BUT TO **DE-SIRE** SOMETHING, AND IT WAS HIS.



"HIS WISH IS THEIR COMMAND. MOSTLY **THEY** DIDN'T HAVE CLEAR NEEDS OF THEIR OWN, NOR DID **HE**...

"...AND IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEPARATE HIMSELF AND HIS NEEDS FROM THEIRS.

"HE LIVED IN A TWILIGHT WORLD. MOSTLY HE WAS HAPPY AND CONTENTED.

"THEN THE **ENEMY** CAME. AT FIRST HE FELT THEM FROM FAR AWAY, A DISTANT UNEASINESS. THEN THEY WERE CLOSER...

"...AND HE FELT THEIR **EFFECT** ON HIS PEOPLE MORE AND MORE, BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW **WHAT** THE **ENEMY** WAS.

"THEN THEY ATTACKED HIS TRIBE. HE FELT THE MEN'S **ANGER** AND **HATE** AND HIS PEOPLE'S **FEAR** AND **RAGE** REFLECTED IT ALL...



...AND HIS PEOPLE BEGAN TO FIGHT THE ATTACKERS...

WHATEVER HE'S SENDING, IT ONLY AFFECTS **SENSITIVES**... WHICH I GUESS I ...STILL AM.

AND HIS PEOPLE MUST BE BOTH **EXCEPTIONALLY SENSITIVE** AND **SUGGESTIBLE**.



HIS **FEAR** AND **RAGE** FED THEIRS AND THEIRS FED HIS...TILL THEY WERE CAUGHT IN A **CYCLE OF HYSTERIA**.

IT...SEEMS THAT WHEN HE CALLED, HIS PEOPLE CAME FROM **ALL OVER**... IN **DROVES**, TO ATTACK THEIR ENEMIES.

EVEN THE **MONSTERS** WHO LIVE FAR BELOW.

SUDDENLY...

FINALLY-- WE'VE
FOUND THE
MONSTERS--CRINGING
IN A BACK CAVERN.

**PURIFIERS,
ROUND THEM
UP!**

DRIVE THEM TO
THE *STERILIZATION*
VAT!

THE
MASTER'S
WILL BE
DONE!

WHY
AREN'T
THEY
RUNNING?

THEY'VE
TURNED
ON US!

THEY'RE
ATTACKING!

BUT WHY?
IS SOMEONE
MANIPULATING
THEM?

CYCLOPS,
UP THERE!

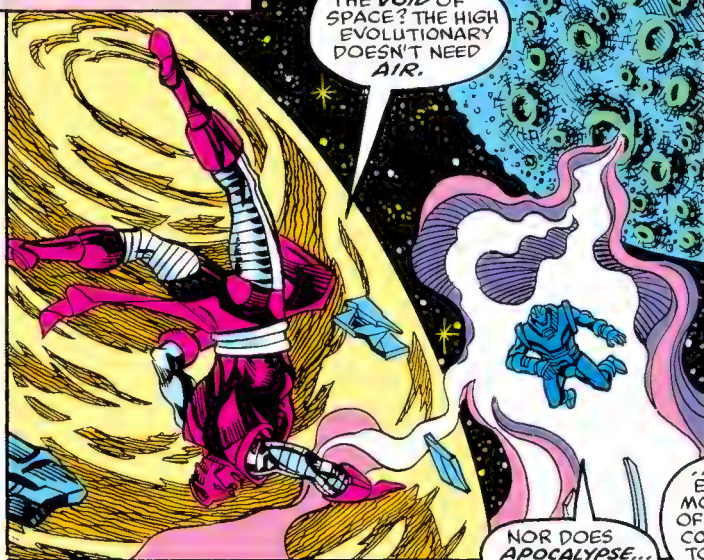
IT'S THEM! THE
ENEMY! THE ONES
THESE CREATURES
ARE AFRAID OF.

'CREEPY LOOKIN'
DUDES, IF I DIDN'T
KNOW BETTER, I'D
BE SCARED!

THEY *WANNA*
FIGHT 'EM! AN'
THEY CAN'T...
'CAUSE THOSE
PURIFIER GUYS
KEEP FLYIN'
ROUND UP WHERE
THEY CAN'T
REACH 'EM.

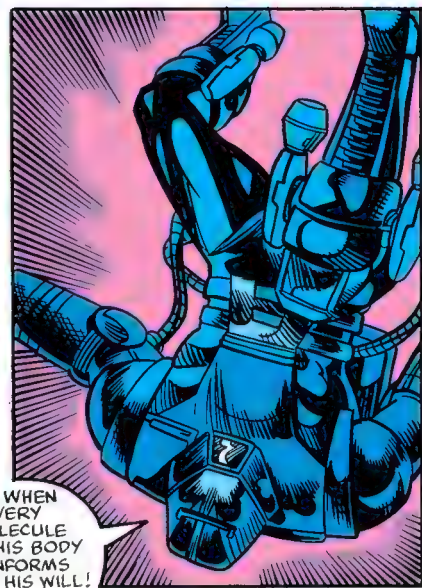
THEN
MAYBE WE
BETTER BRING
THEM DOWN
TO OUR
LEVEL...!

WHILE OUT IN SPACE...

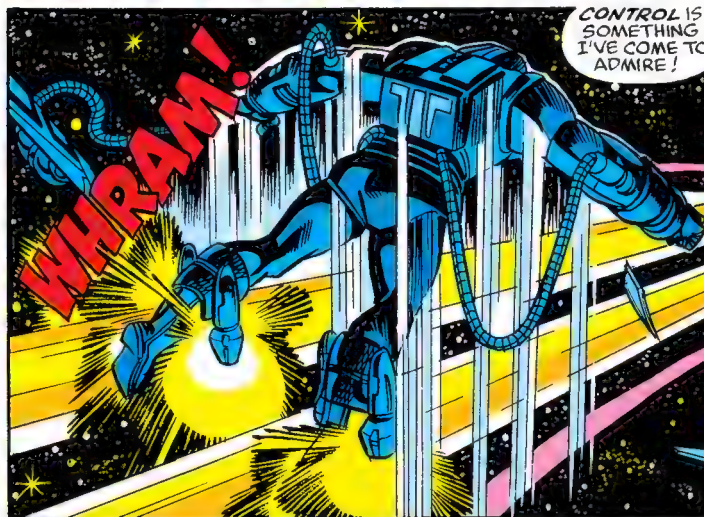


THE VOID OF SPACE? THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY DOESN'T NEED AIR.

NOR DOES APOCALYPSE...



...WHEN EVERY MOLECULE OF HIS BODY CONFORMS TO HIS WILL!



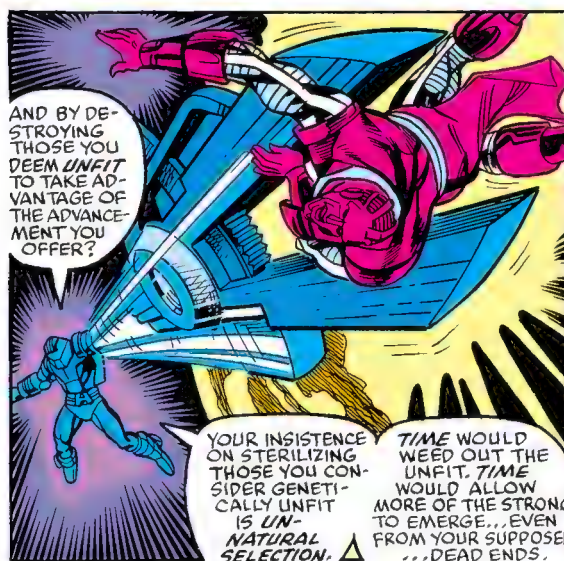
WHRAM!

CONTROL IS SOMETHING I'VE COME TO ADMIRE!

IN LESS THAN A SINGLE LIFETIME, I HAVE DEVOLVED TO LESS THAN ANIMAL... AND EVOLVED TO BECOME LIKE UNTO A GOD.

I HAVE SEEN WHERE HUMANITY IS GOING... AND ON ITS OWN... IT WILL ADVANCE... AND THEN IT WILL STOP, AS I HAVE STOPPED.

IN CONTROLLING HUMANITY'S DESTINY, I OFFER IT A CHANCE TO BECOME MORE THAN IT CAN BE... BY GIVING IT A... BOOST.



AND BY DESTROYING THOSE YOU DEEM UNFIT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ADVANCEMENT YOU OFFER?

YOUR INSISTENCE ON STERILIZING THOSE YOU CONSIDER GENETICALLY UNFIT IS UN-NATURAL SELECTION. Δ

TIME WOULD WEED OUT THE UNFIT. TIME WOULD ALLOW MORE OF THE STRONG TO EMERGE... EVEN FROM YOUR SUPPOSED ...DEAD ENDS.

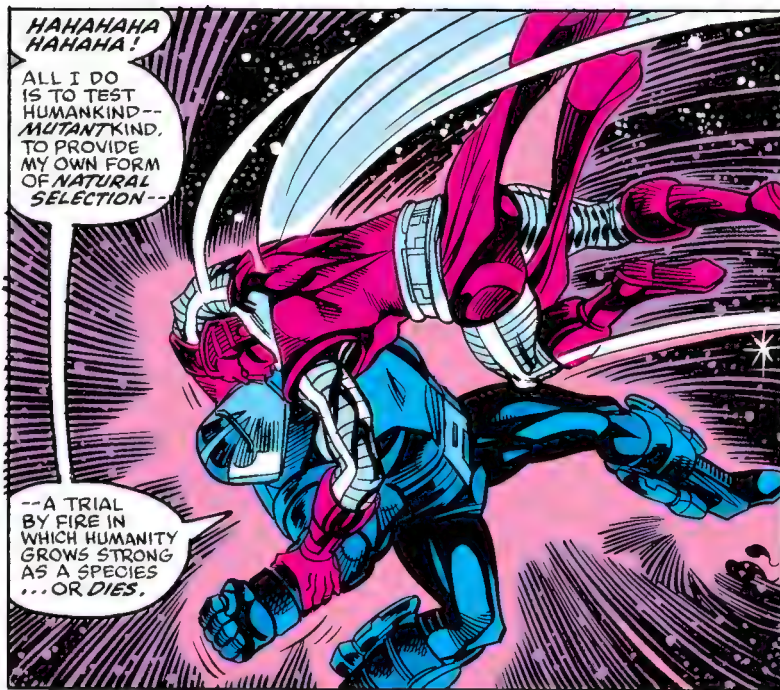
BUT IT IS TIME THAT IS YOUR ENEMY, TIME THAT YOU SEEK TO EVADE, IS IT NOT?



AH, THE IMPATIENCE OF THE YOUNG...!

I RECOGNIZE YOU, APOCALYPSE. YOUR CLAIMS... TO ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF THE STRONG... IS AT VARIANCE WITH YOUR DEEDS.

I CONSIDER YOU A VILLAIN OF THE FIRST ORDER.



HAHAHAHA
HAHAHA!

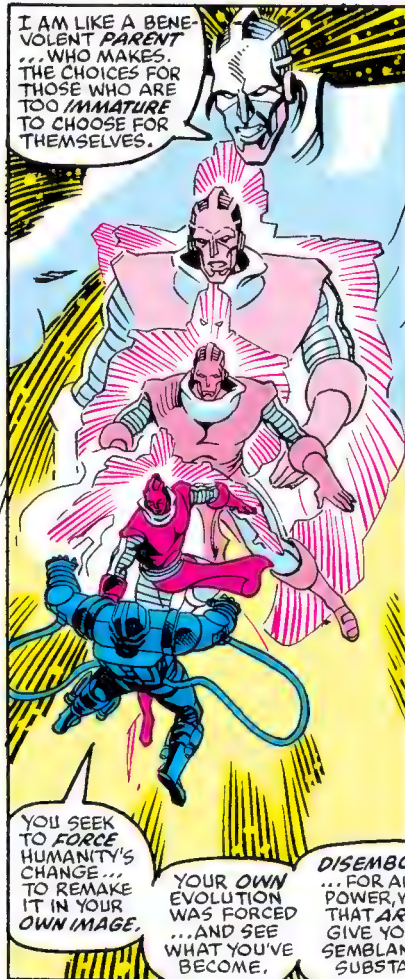
ALL I DO
IS TO TEST
HUMANKIND--
MUTANTKIND.
TO PROVIDE
MY OWN FORM
OF NATURAL
SELECTION--

--A TRIAL
BY FIRE IN
WHICH HUMANITY
GROWS STRONG
AS A SPECIES
...OR DIES.



AS I SUSPECT YOU
TALK OF DEATH--
WHILE I SPEAK
OF LIFE, I WILL
HELP HUMANITY
ADVANCE...AS
I HAVE ADVANCED...

...TO LIVE
TO BECOME
ALL THEY
CAN BE.

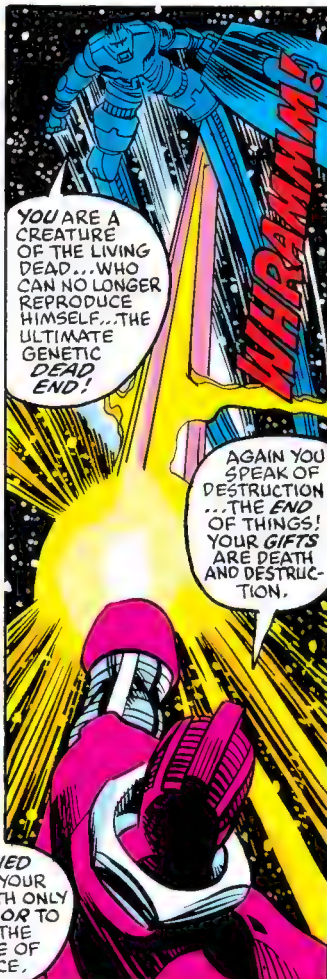


I AM LIKE A BENE-
VOLENT PARENT
...WHO MAKES
THE CHOICES FOR
THOSE WHO ARE
TOO IMMATURE
TO CHOOSE FOR
THEMSELVES.

YOU SEEK
TO FORCE
HUMANITY'S
CHANGE...
TO REMAKE
IT IN YOUR
OWN IMAGE.

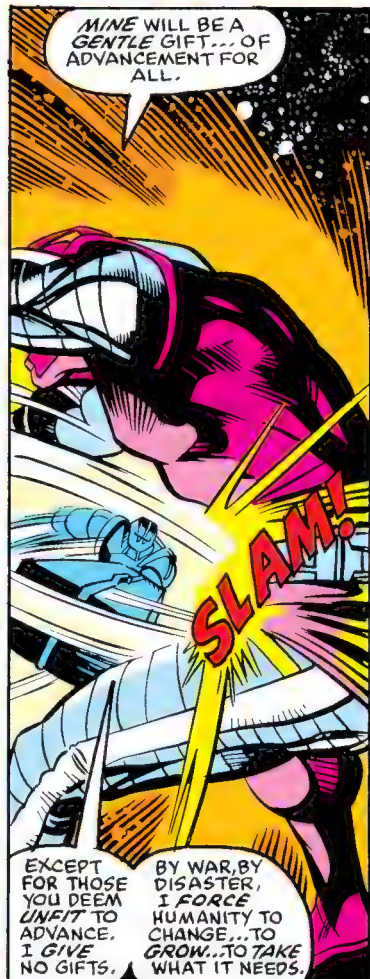
YOUR OWN
EVOLUTION
WAS FORCED
...AND SEE
WHAT YOU'VE
BECOME.

DISEMBODIED
...FOR ALL YOUR
POWER, WITH ONLY
THAT ARMOR TO
GIVE YOU THE
SEMBLANCE OF
SUBSTANCE.



YOU ARE A
CREATURE OF THE
LIVING DEAD...WHO
CAN NO LONGER
REPRODUCE
HIMSELF...THE
ULTIMATE
GENETIC
DEAD
END!

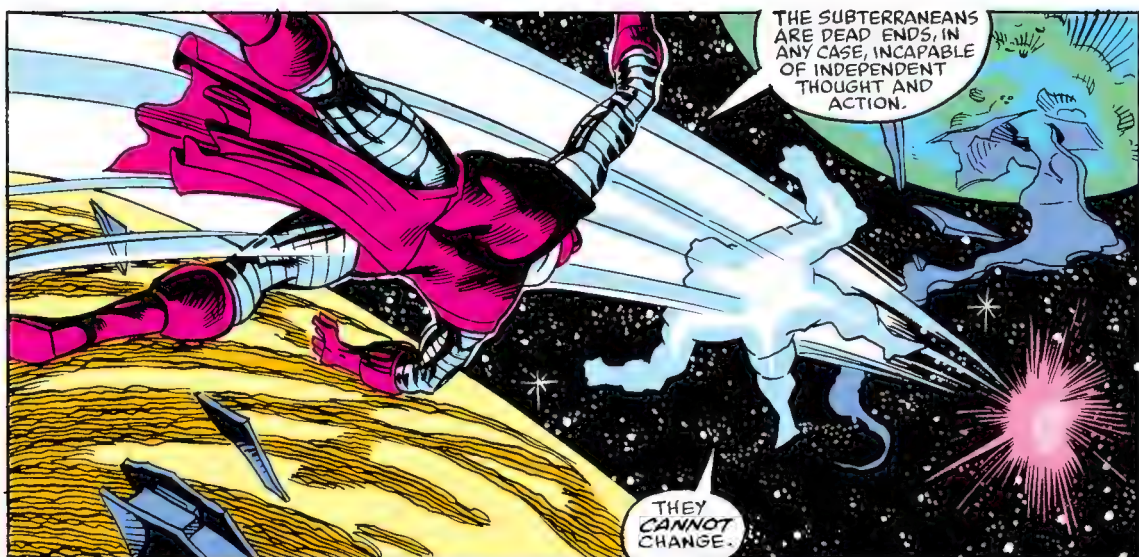
AGAIN YOU
SPEAK OF
DESTRUCTION
...THE END
OF THINGS!
YOUR GIFTS
ARE DEATH
AND DESTRUC-
TION.



MINE WILL BE A
GENTLE GIFT...OF
ADVANCEMENT FOR
ALL.

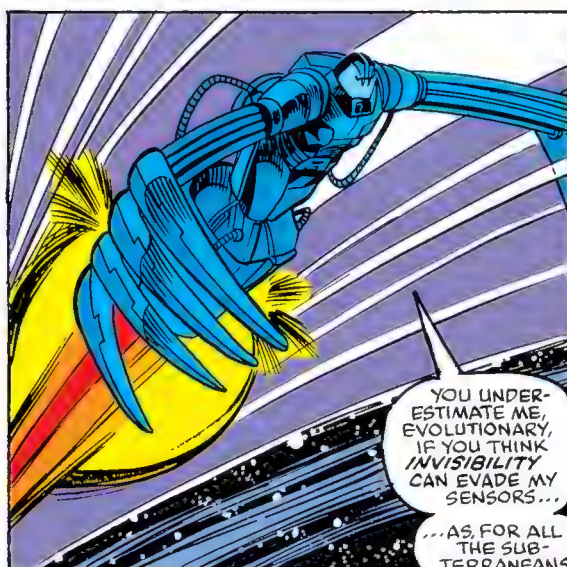
EXCEPT
FOR THOSE
YOU DEEM
UNFIT TO
ADVANCE.
I GIVE
NO GIFTS.

BY WAR, BY
DISASTER,
I FORCE
HUMANITY TO
CHANGE...TO
GROW...TO TAKE
WHAT IT NEEDS.



THE SUBTERRANEANS
ARE DEAD ENDS, IN
ANY CASE, INCAPABLE
OF INDEPENDENT
THOUGHT AND
ACTION.

THEY
CANNOT
CHANGE.

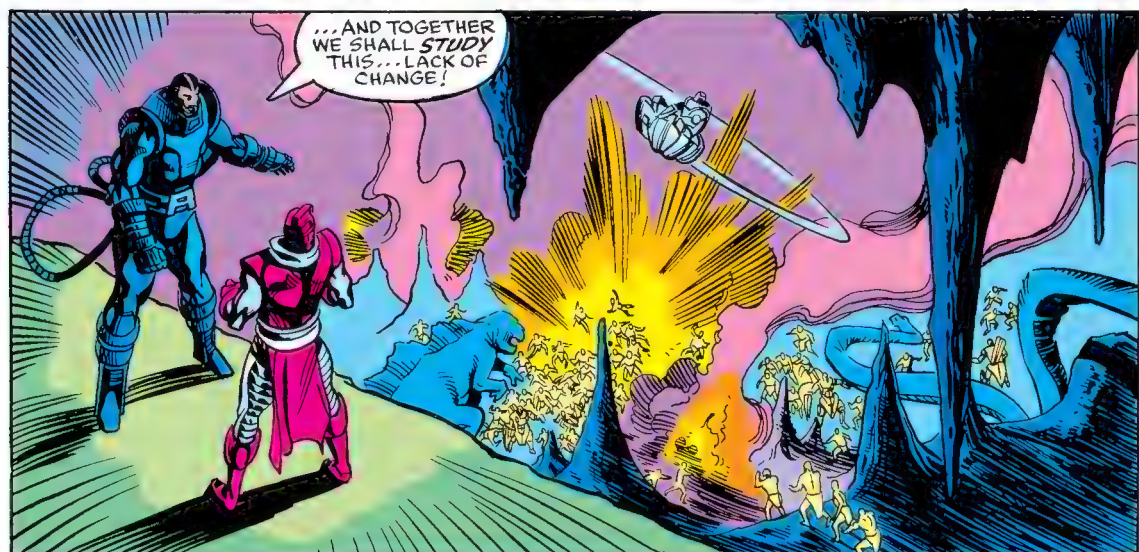


YOU UNDER-
ESTIMATE ME,
EVOLUTIONARY.
IF YOU THINK
INVISIBILITY
CAN EVADE MY
SENSORS...

...AS FOR ALL
THE SUB-
TERRANEANS...



...YOU SHALL
TRAVEL TO THEM
...VIA MY TELE-
PORTATION
EFFECTS...AS
MY GUEST...



...AND TOGETHER
WE SHALL STUDY
THIS...LACK OF
CHANGE!



A CAUSE OF
MASSIVE
CARNAGE, IS
IT NOT...YOUR
GENTLE GIFT?

FINE TOYS
YOU GIVE YOUR
CHILDREN TO
PLAY WITH.

WHO ARE
THEY?

HUMANS--
MUTANTS--
FROM THE
SURFACE!

THEY DON'T
BELONG HERE!
WHAT ARE THEY
DOING HERE?

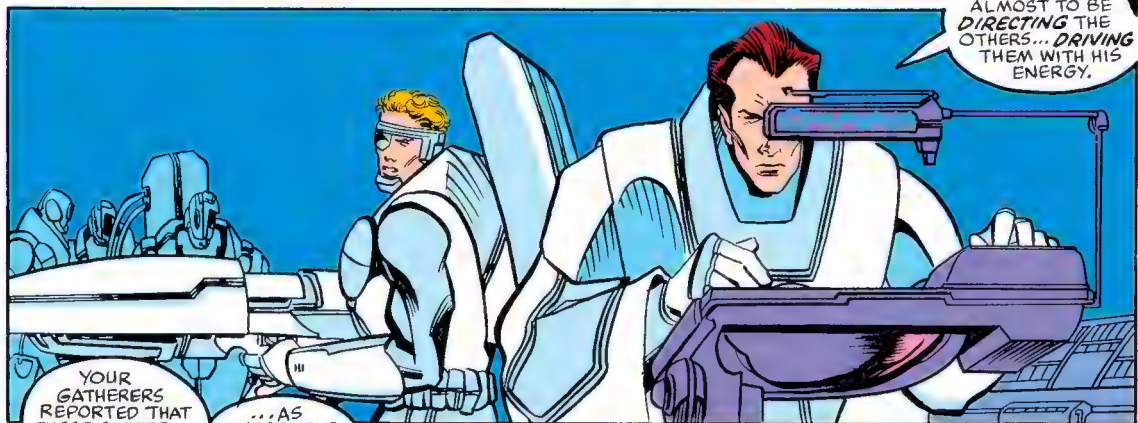
I SUSPECT,
EVOLUTIONARY
THAT X-FACTOR
WAS SUMMONED...
EVEN AS I WAS
SUMMONED.

CAN'T SOMEBODY
CHECK THESE THINGS
OUT AND FIND OUT
WHAT'S DRIVING
THEM CRAZY--?



I'VE PIN-POINTED THE SOURCE OF RESISTANCE, PURGE. THAT **ORANGE ONE!**

MASSIVE PSYCHIC ENERGY, **RUSHING** FROM HIM. HE'S A **MUTANT**... I'D STAKE MY LIFE ON IT, SOME SORT OF **TELEPATH**.



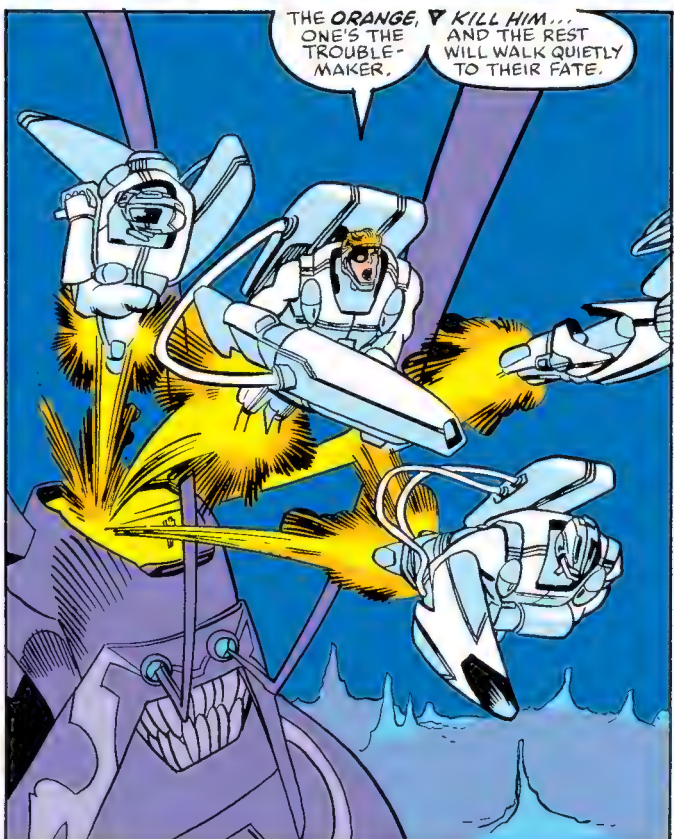
HE SEEMS ALMOST TO BE **DIRECTING** THE OTHERS... **DRIVING** THEM WITH HIS ENERGY.



YOUR GATHERERS REPORTED THAT THESE SUBTERRANEANS WERE AN EVOLUTIONARY DEAD END...

...AS INCAPABLE OF CHANGE... OF **MUTATION** ...AS THEY ARE OF **RESISTANCE**.

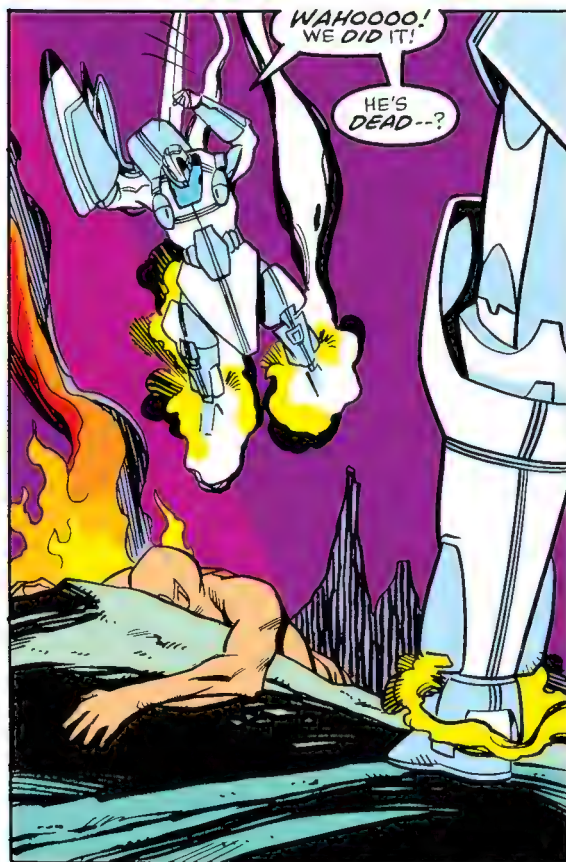
GET YOUR MEN OUT THERE, PURGE, WIPE HIM OUT AND THEY **WILL BE**.



THE **ORANGE**, ONE'S THE TROUBLE-MAKER.

▼ **KILL HIM...** AND THE REST WILL WALK QUIETLY TO THEIR FATE.







WHY WOULD SO HIGHLY EVOLVED... SO GENEROUS AND BENEVOLENT A MASTER AS YOU...

...EMPOWER MEN SO FLAWED AND FOOLISH THAT THEY CANNOT RECOGNIZE THE AMAZING POWER OF THE VESSEL THAT THEY HOLD IN THEIR HANDS?

YOUR WAY, APOCALYPSE, IS TO BEAT THE FOOLISHNESS OUT OF THEM... ALONG WITH THEIR LIVES.

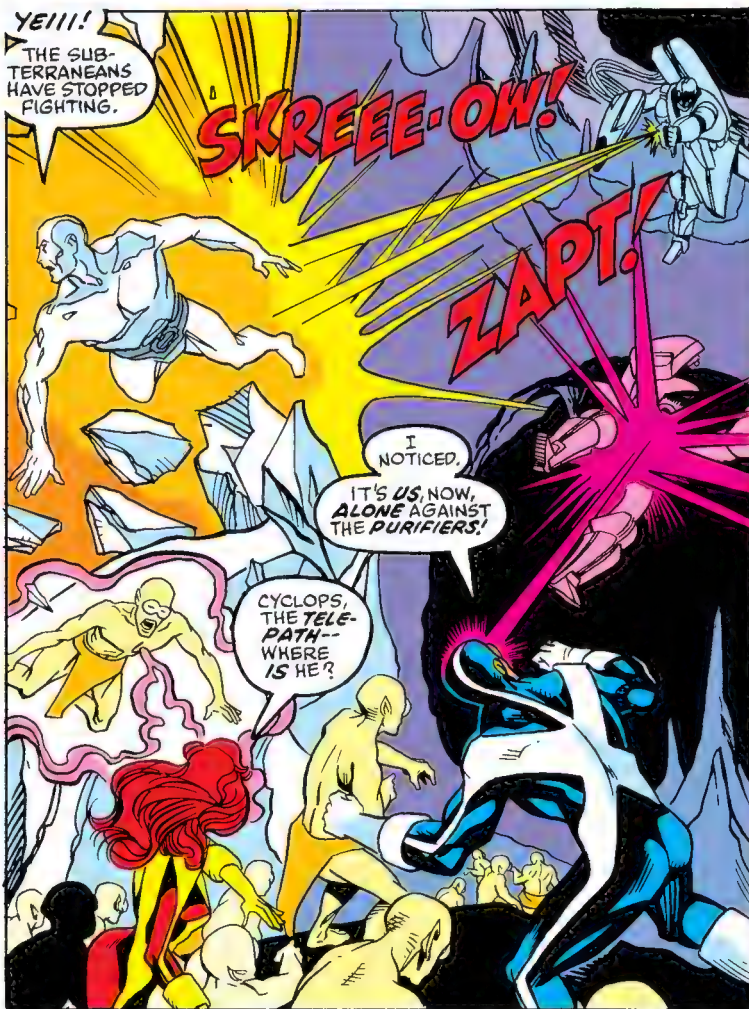
THE LITTLE SUBTERRANEAN IS INCAPABLE OF *USING* HIS POWER CONSCIOUSLY, INTELLIGENTLY.

HE REACTS INSTINCTIVELY... AS A FRIGHTENED ANIMAL DOES.

FOR ALL HIS INNATE ABILITY, HE IS NOT CREATIVE. HE CANNOT *THINK*!



HE IS A DEAD END... LIKE ALL HIS KIND.



YEIII!
THE SUBTERRANEANS HAVE STOPPED FIGHTING.

SKREEE-OW!

ZAPT!

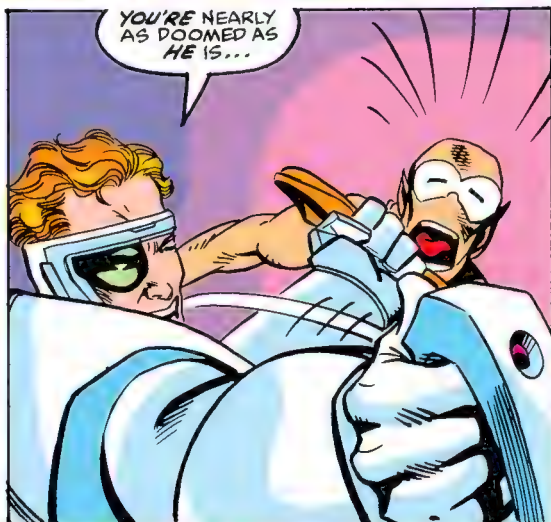
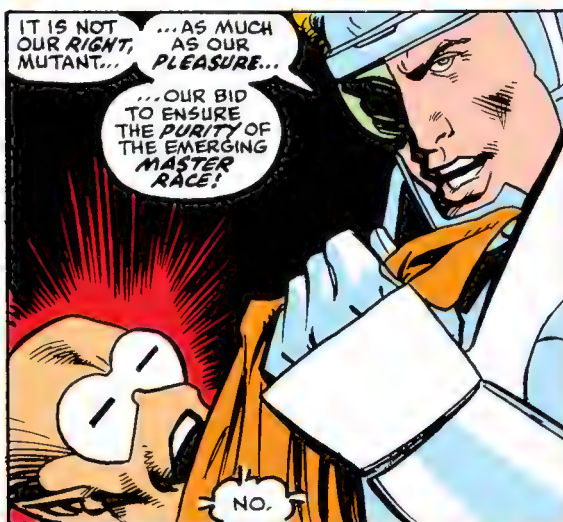
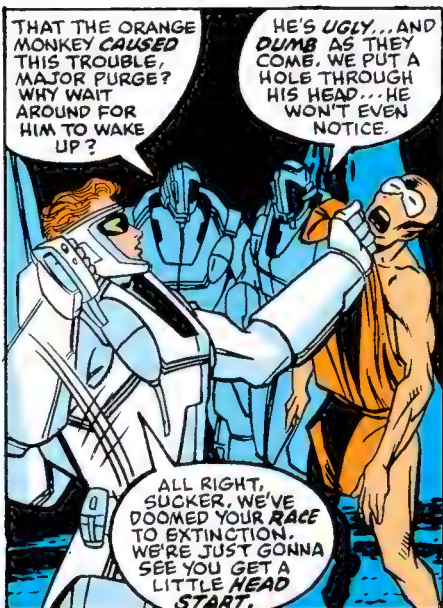
I NOTICED.

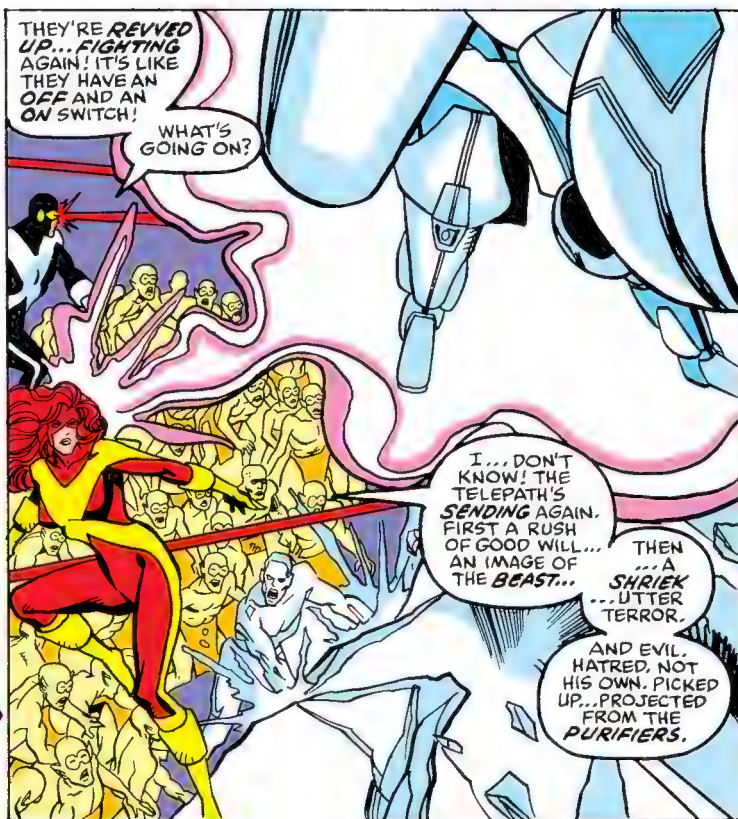
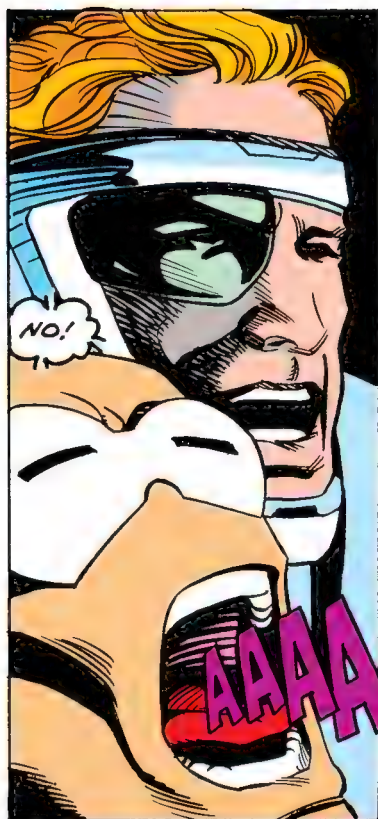
IT'S US, NOW, ALONE AGAINST THE PURIFIERS!

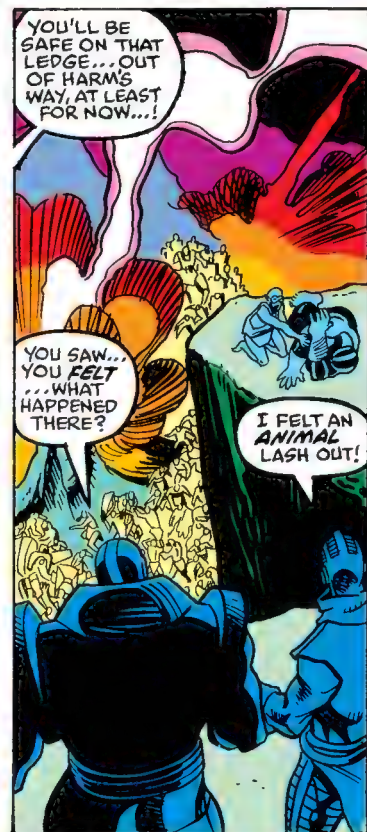
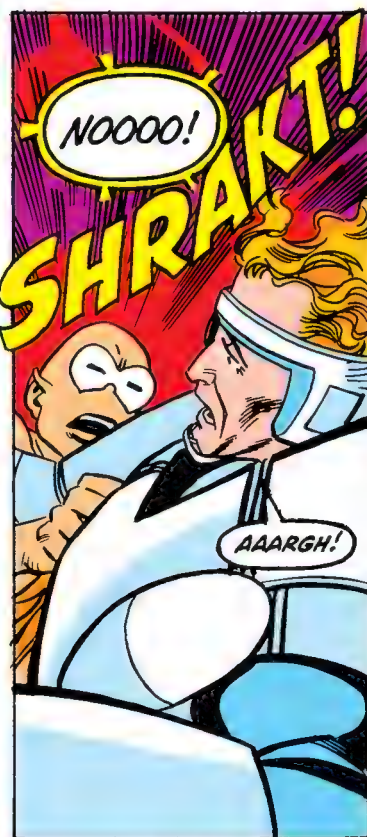
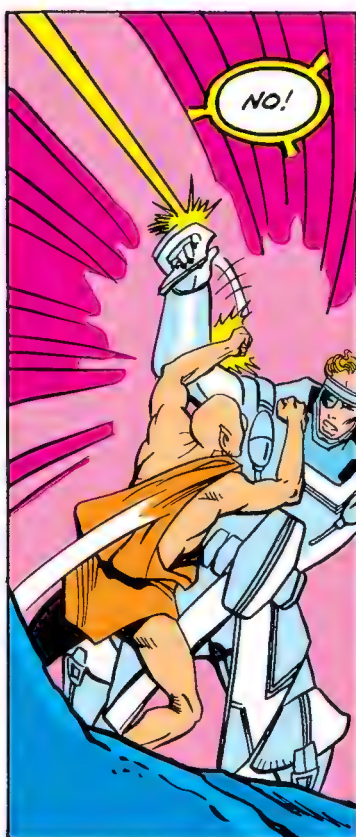
CYCLOPS, THE TELEPATH-- WHERE IS HE?



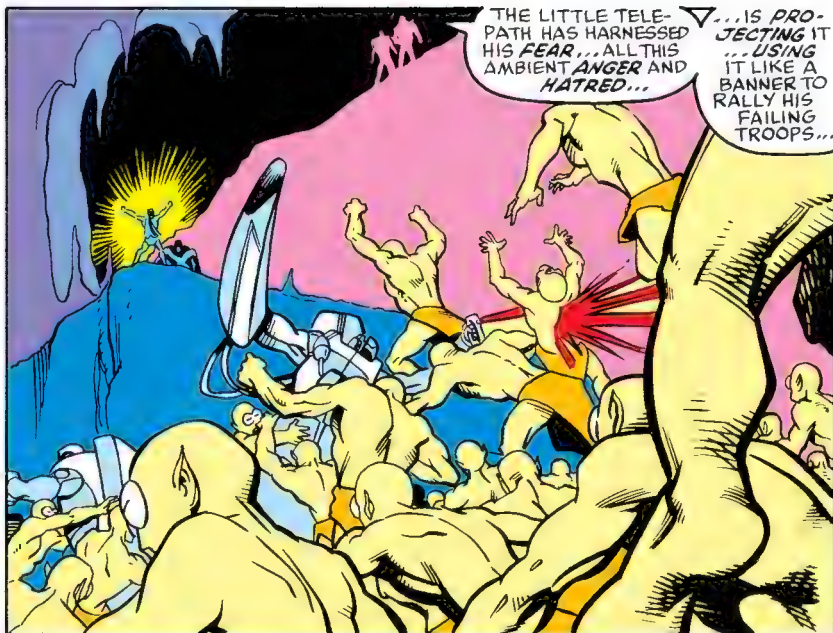
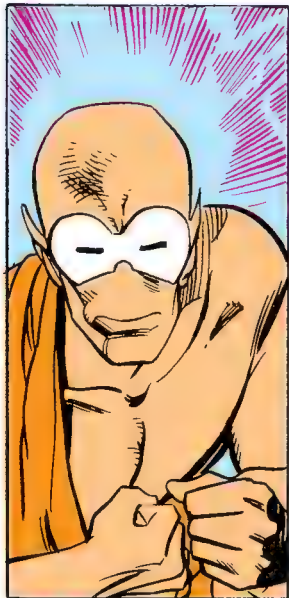
THERE! I SEE 'IM!





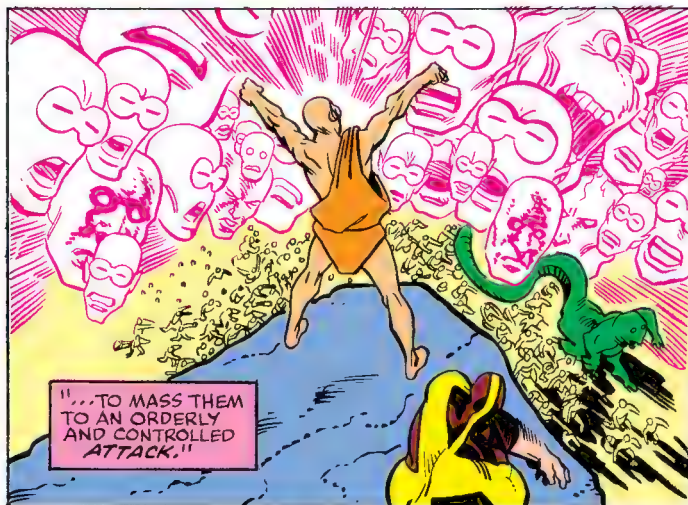


"IS THAT AN ANIMAL'S BEHAVIOR?"



THE LITTLE TELE-PATH HAS HARNESSED HIS FEAR... ALL THIS AMBIENT ANGER AND HATRED...

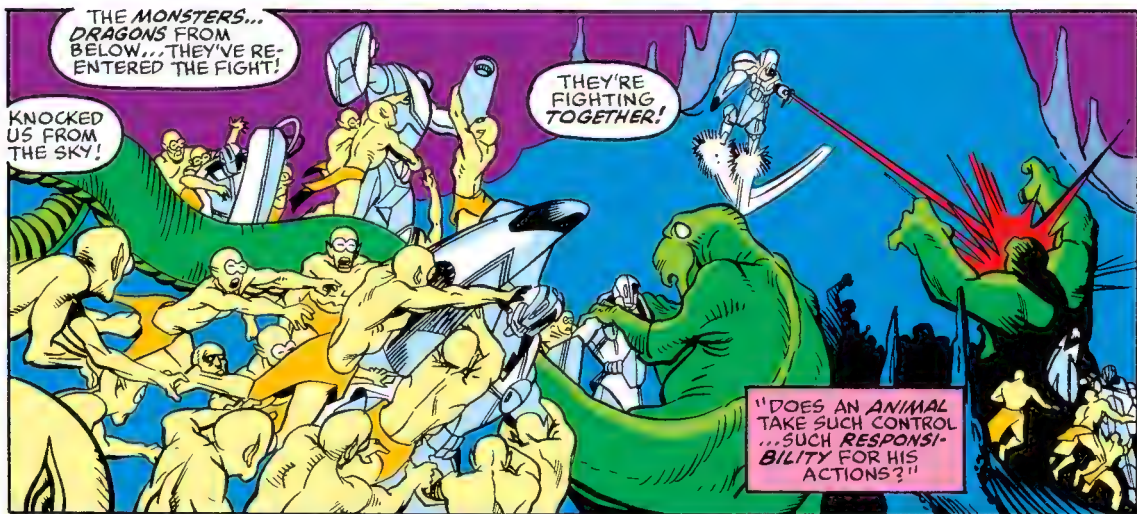
...IS PROJECTING IT ... USING IT LIKE A BANNER TO RALLY HIS FAILING TROOPS...



"...TO MASS THEM TO AN ORDERLY AND CONTROLLED ATTACK."

YA DID IT! SOMEHOW YA GOT YOUR GUYS TA FIGHT BACK!

AN' THIS TIME, I THINK YOU'RE GONNA WIN.

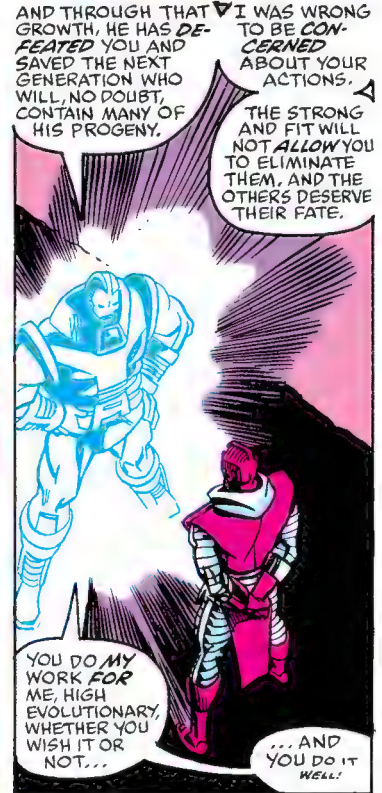
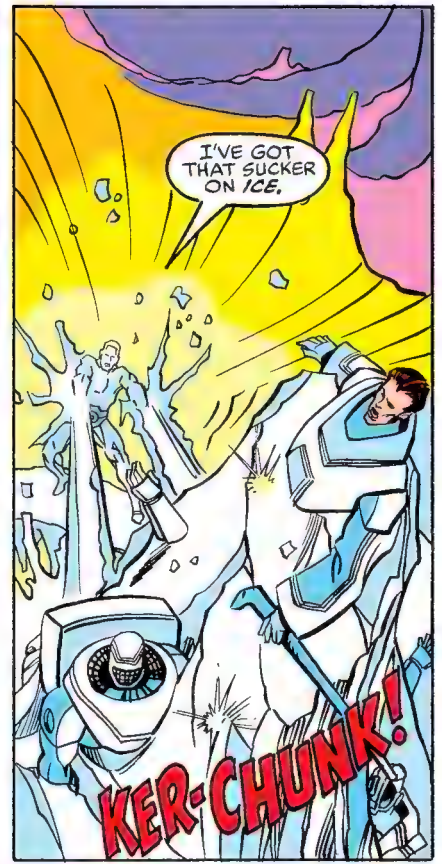


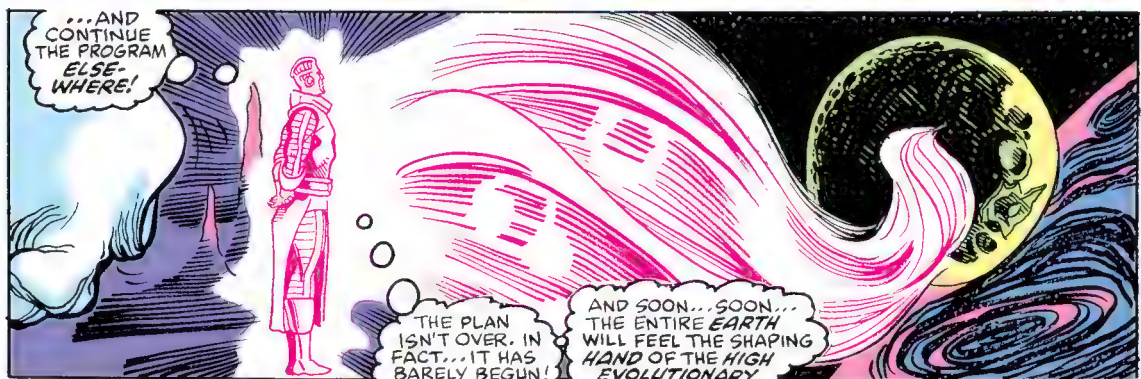
THE MONSTERS... DRAGONS FROM BELOW... THEY'VE RE-ENTERED THE FIGHT!

KNOCKED US FROM THE SKY!

THEY'RE FIGHTING TOGETHER!

"DOES AN ANIMAL TAKE SUCH CONTROL ... SUCH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS ACTIONS?"





LATER...

LISSEN, BUDDY,
I KNOW YOU CAN'T
TALK WORDS OR ANY-
THING, BUT MAYBE YOU
CAN KINDA... GET WHAT
I'M SAYIN' ANYHOW.

VAL-OR... HEARS!
VAL-OR... LEARNS.

OH, MAN!
JEANIE, HE CAN
HEAR ME! HE
UNDERSTANDS
WHAT I'M
SAYIN'.

AN' WHEN I CONCENTRATE
...REAL HARD... I
THINK I UNDERSTAND
HIM!

LISSEN, I WANNA
THANK YOU FOR SAVIN'
MY LIFE BACK THERE...
WITH THAT MIND BLAST...
OR WHATEVER IT WAS.

US X-FACTOR GUYS
THINK YOU'RE A
MUTANT... AN' WE
WONDER IF MAYBE
YOU'D WANNA COME
LIVE ABOVE
GROUND WITH
US.

WE TRY AN' HELP
TEACH PEOPLE
ABOUT USING
THEIR POWERS
AN'--

NO.
VAL-OR
THANKS.

BUT...
SPECIAL
GIFT...

...MUST USE...
FOR PEOPLE.

YOU... BEAST...
TEACH VAL-OR...
THAT FATE...
VAL-OR'S
OWN.

VAL-OR
MUST
CHOOSE.

VAL-OR SAVE
BEAST LIFE...

BEAST... FRIENDS...
GIVE VAL-OR PEOPLE
LIFE.

VAL-OR OWE
BEAST MORE
THAN LIFE.

GIFT...
MORE THAN
EVEN.

TO LEARN THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S NEXT MOVE IN HIS
REVOLUTIONARY PLAN FOR EARTH, READ PUNISHER
ANNUAL #1. ON SALE NEXT WEEK.



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X FACTOR



MAZZUCHELLI • 86



AN X-FACTOR BLAST FROM THE PAST!

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH -- I KNOW!
BOBBY DIDN'T MAKE HIS ICE
SLIDES WHEN HE WAS IN HIS
"SNOWMAN" FORM, BUT...

Steve B 1988

MILES BEYOND
MANHATTAN,
HOVERING
ABOVE THE
ATLANTIC
OCEAN...

WANNA
RACE?

YEAH,
WHERE--?

TO THE
HYDROPONICS
GARDEN?

YOU'RE
ON!

CHANGES!

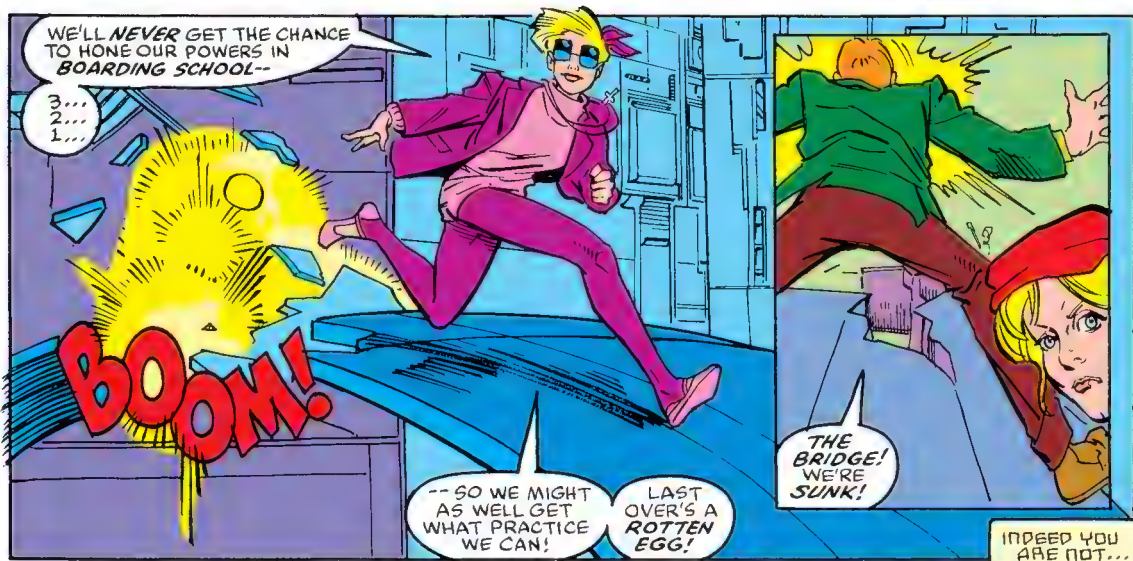
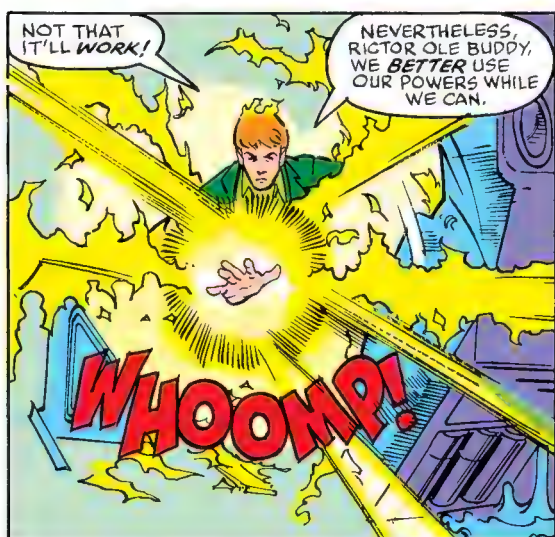
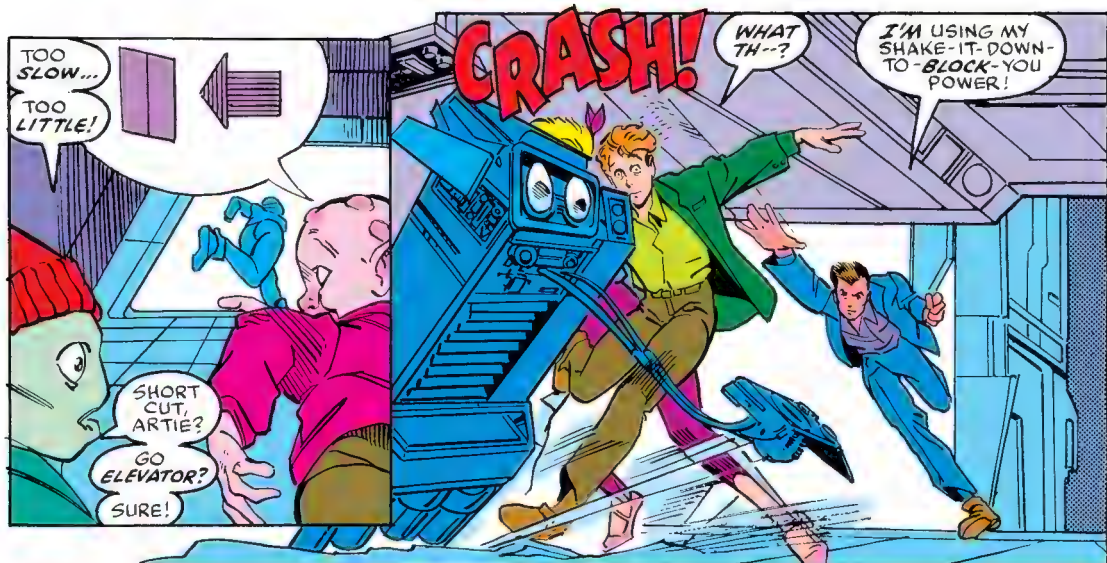
YO, RUSTY,
POWERS
OR NOT?

'COURSE
WE USE
OUR POWERS,
SKIDS!

JUST MAKE
SURE YOU KEEP
AHEAD OF LEECH
OR HE'LL **DE-
POWER** YOU.

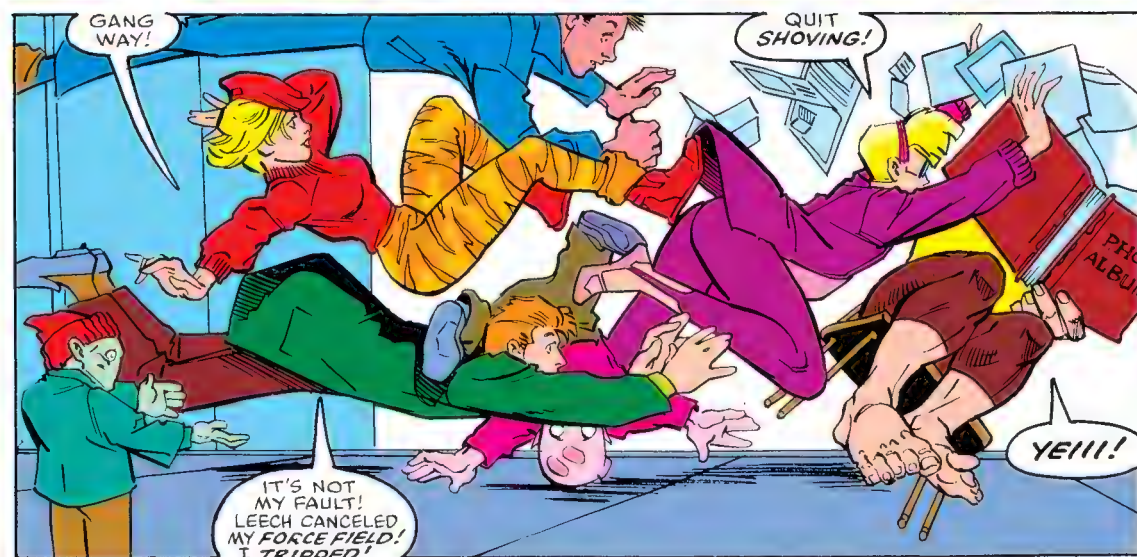
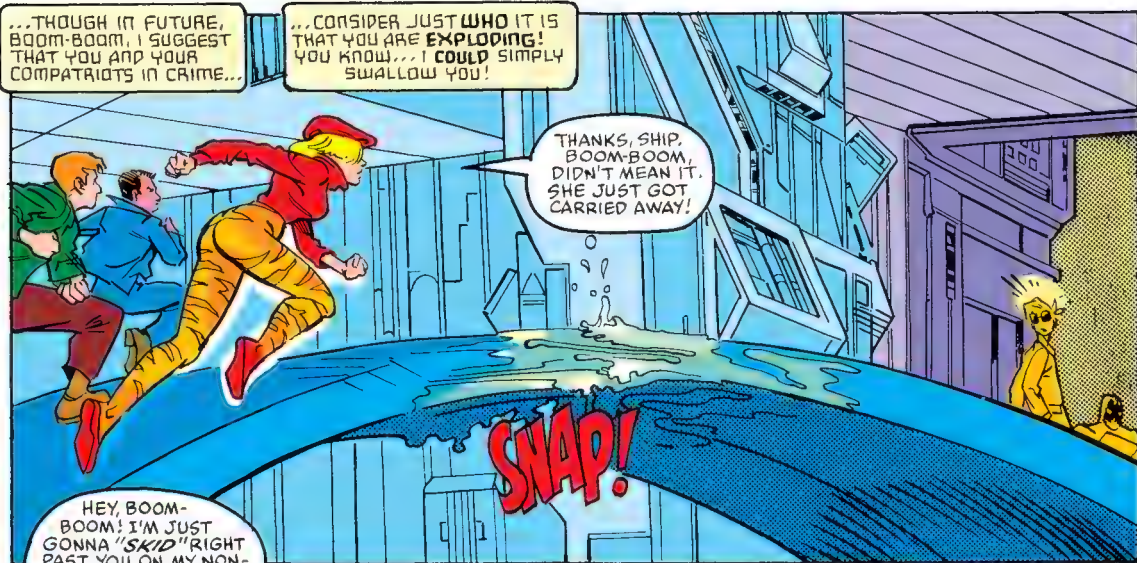
LEECH
WON'T!

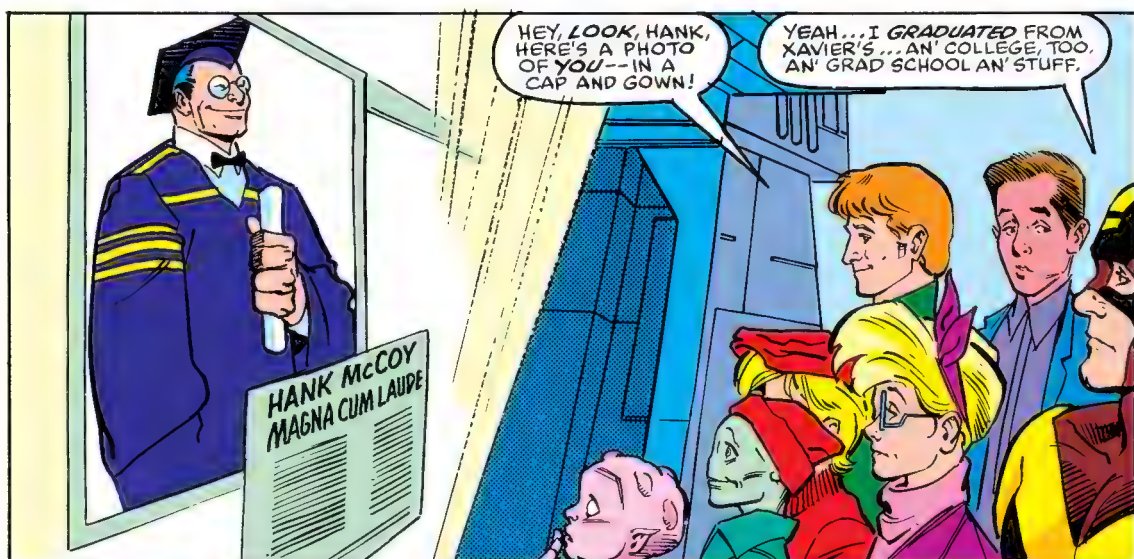
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...THOUGH IN FUTURE,
BOOM-BOOM, I SUGGEST
THAT YOU AND YOUR
COMPATRIOTS IN CRIME...

...CONSIDER JUST WHO IT IS
THAT YOU ARE **EXPLODING!**
YOU KNOW... I **COULD** SIMPLY
SWALLOW YOU!





HEY, LOOK, HANK, HERE'S A PHOTO OF YOU--IN A CAP AND GOWN!

YEAH... I GRADUATED FROM XAVIER'S... AN' COLLEGE, TOO. AN' GRAD SCHOOL AN' STUFF.

HANK MCCOY
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

BACK THEN... I WAS PRETTY SMART. I GOT A JOB DOIN' GENETIC RESEARCH.

AN' I FOUND THE CHEMICAL... CA... CATALYST THAT CAUSES MUTATIONS. ONLY MAYBE I WASN'T SO SMART...

... 'CAUSE I TESTED IT OUT ON MYSELF...

... AN' LOOK WHAT HAPPENED!

THAT'S YOU--?

YOU WERE CUTE LIKE THAT!

OH YUCK! GROSS!



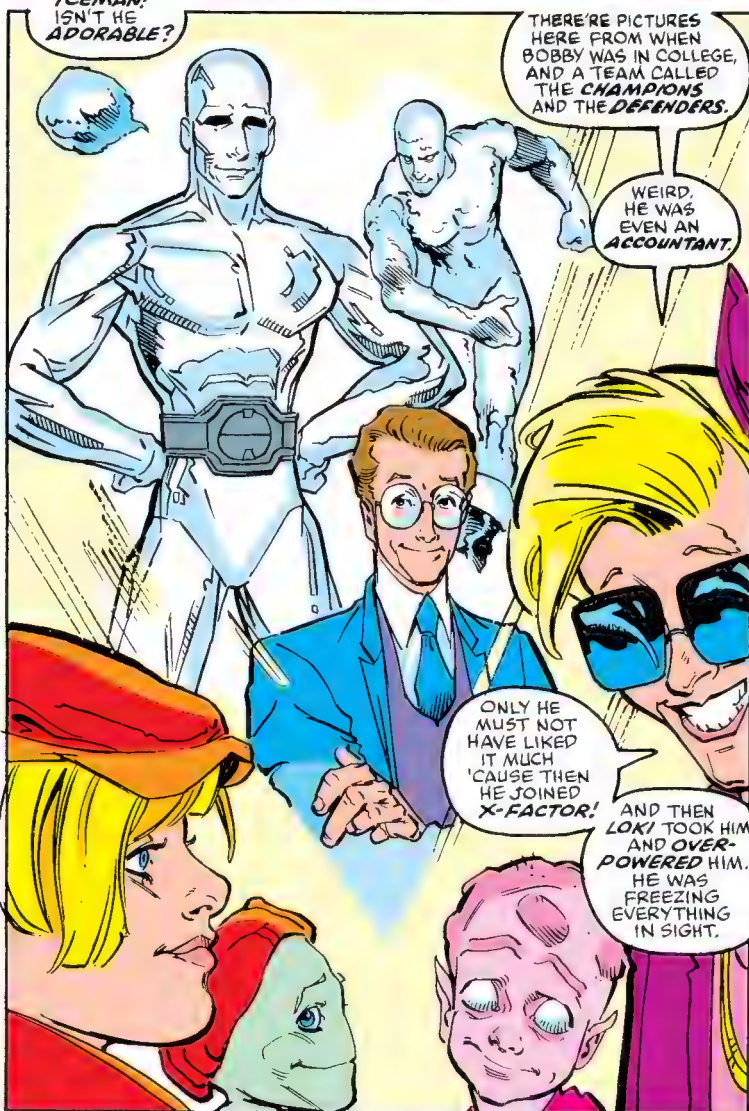
OKAY, LEECH MOVE. ARTIE TALK NOW!



THAT'S YOUR DADDY, ARTIE, RIGHT?

I HEARD ABOUT HIM.

HE REVERSED HANK'S FORMULA AND CAPTURED HIM AND INJECTED HIM WITH CHEMICALS THAT DE-FURRED HIM...



AND WHO IS THIS? THAT DOES NOT LOOK LIKE AN X-MEN UNIFORM... OR X-FACTOR EITHER?

IT'S NOT. THAT'S WARREN WORTHINGTON III AS A KID. IT'S FROM BEFORE HE JOINED THE X-MEN. IT'S AN EXETER UNIFORM...

THAT'S A RITZY, RICH KID SNOB SCHOOL.

WHERE, M'MAN, THEY'RE PLANNING TO SEND US!

HE GREW WINGS... HE REALLY LOOKED LIKE AN ANGEL, DIDN'T HE?

AND JOINED THE X-MEN. EVENTUALLY HE QUIT AND HIS PARENTS DIED AND LEFT HIM MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

HE USED THE MONEY PARTLY TO HELP FOUND OTHER TEAMS... AND THEN HE FOUNDED X-FACTOR.

OUCH!

YEAH, I'LL TELL THAT PART, ARTIE, DON'T GET EXCITED.

ANGEL WAS INJURED SAVING ARTIE. HIS WINGS WERE RIPPED UP REALLY BADLY.

BUMP! SHOVE!

ANGEL NO MORE

THEY AMPUTATED THEM.

I BELIEVE I KNOW THE REST. MY FORMER MASTER, APOCALYPSE, TOOK HIM...

HEY! ENOUGH OF THAT! NO FIGHTING, YOU TWO...

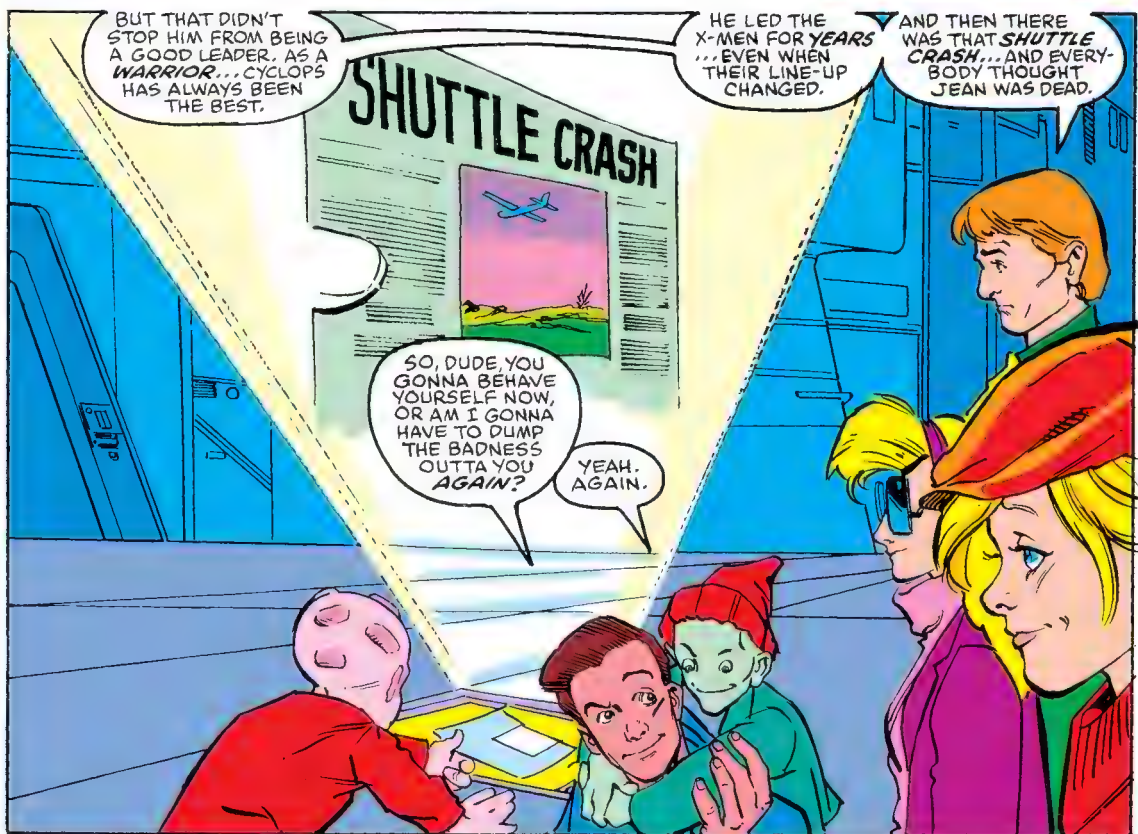
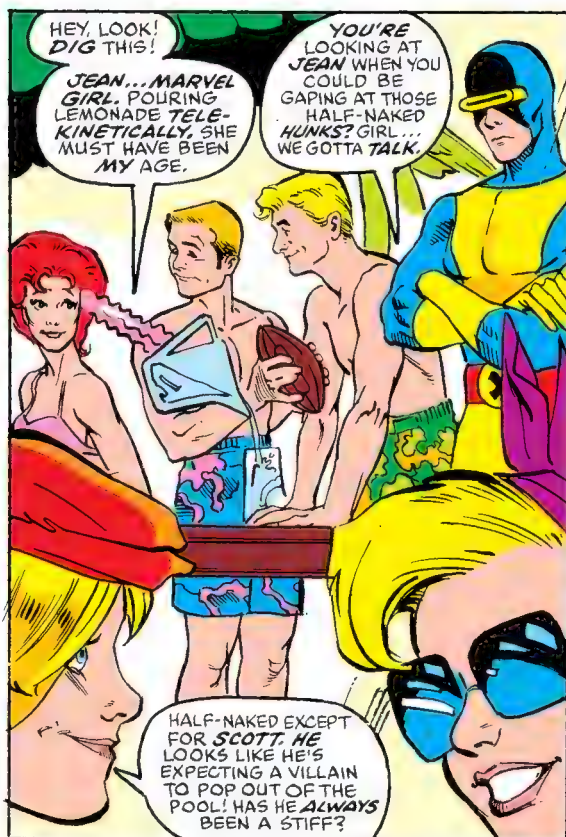
...AND REGREW HIS WINGS... VERY POWERFUL, VERY DEADLY... AND I FEAR, VERY EVIL... AND TOOK HIM TO BE HIS FOURTH HORSEMAN--DEATH.

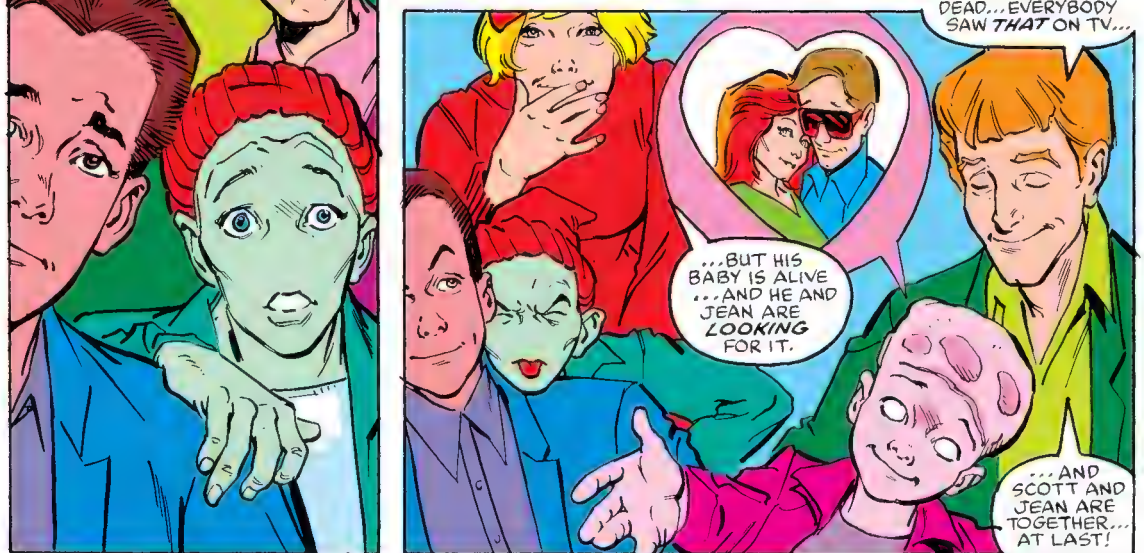
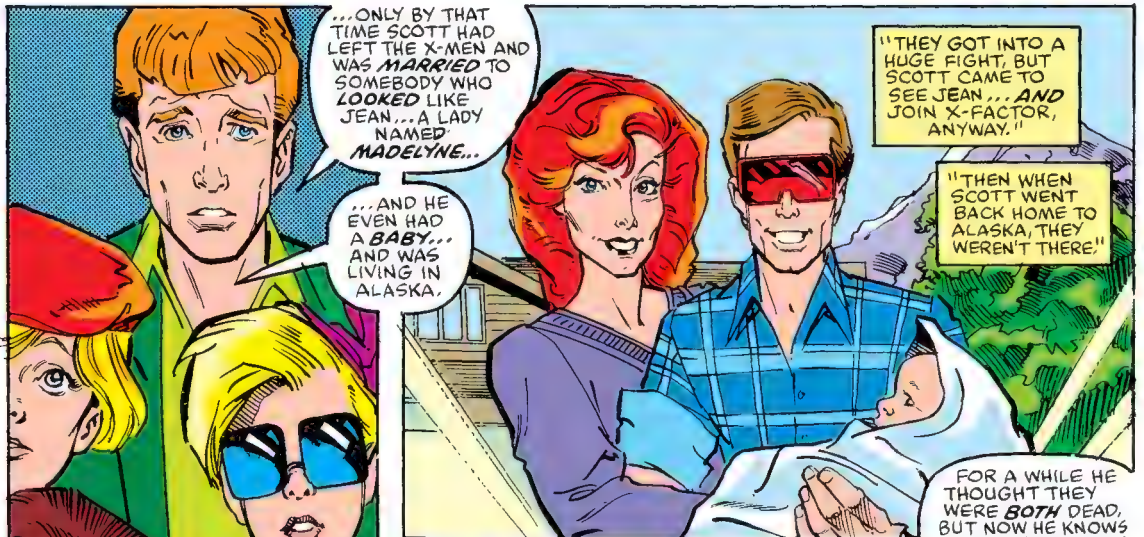
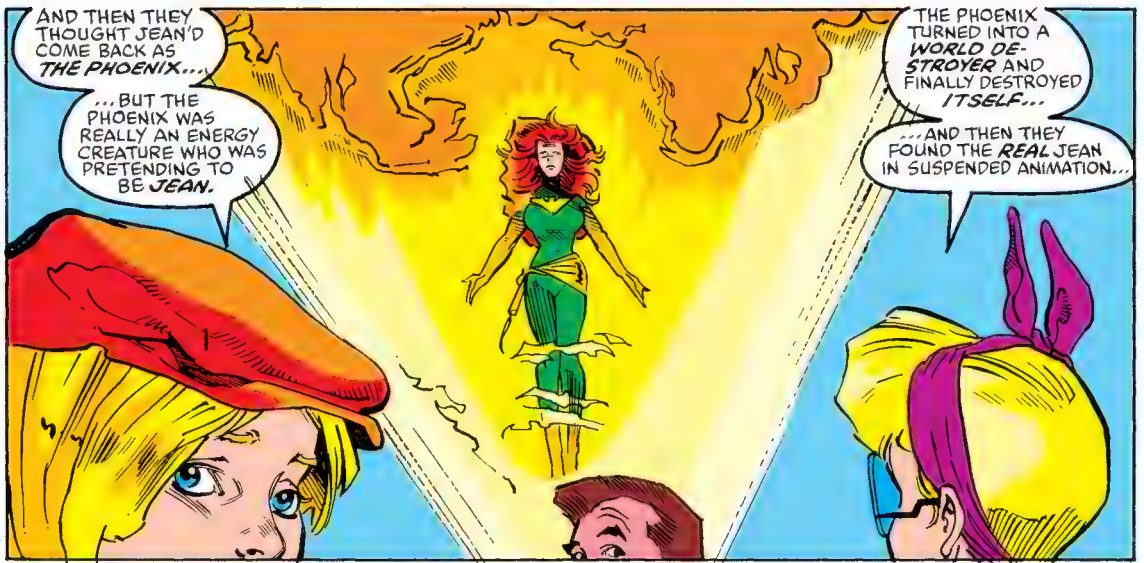
SHREEEEE

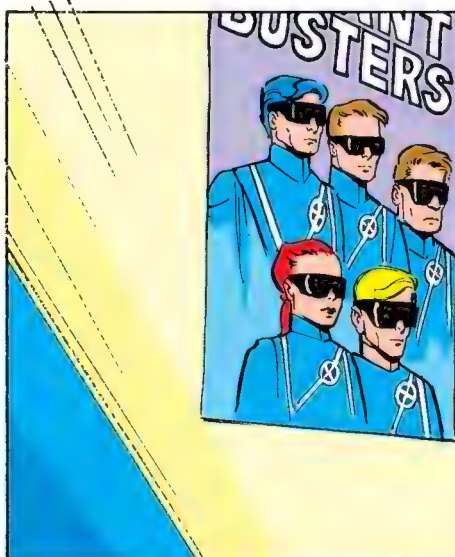
AND HE FOUGHT THE TEAM HE HAD JUST HELPED TO FOUND.

THOUGH NOW FREED, LIKE MYSELF, FROM APOCALYPSE CONTROL YOUR ANGEL SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME A CREATURE OF DARKNESS.

...OR ELSE! YOU DIG?





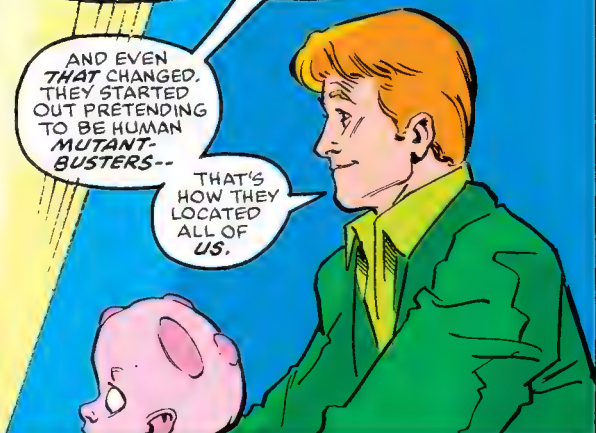


THINGS SURE
HAVE CHANGED.
THEY WERE *KID*
X-MEN WHEN
THEY STARTED...

...AND NOW
THEY'RE
X-FACTOR.

AND EVEN
THAT CHANGED.
THEY STARTED
OUT PRETENDING
TO BE HUMAN
MUTANT-
BUSTERS--

THAT'S
HOW THEY
LOCATED
ALL OF
US.

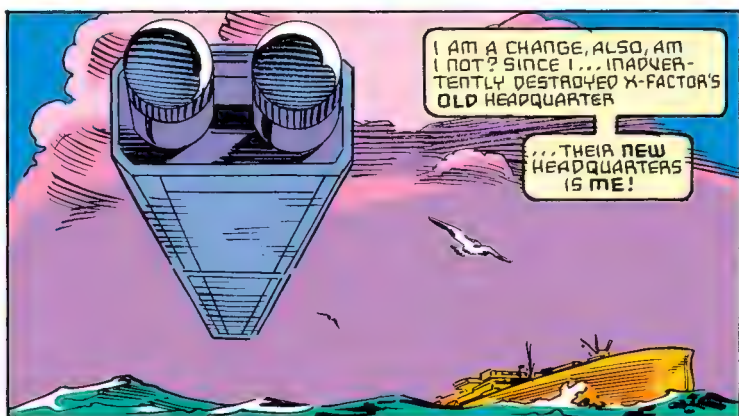


"BUT NOW THEY'RE
PUBLICLY KNOWN
AS *MUTANT*
HEROES."

"BUT WHAT HASN'T
CHANGED, *EVER*, IS
THAT THEY STILL
PROTECT EVERYBODY
... HUMANS AND
MUTANTS... FROM
EVIL MUTANTS..."



"...AND THEY STILL
TRY TO HELP AND
TRAIN US *MUTANT*
KIDS LIKE XAVIER
TRAINED THEM."



I AM A CHANGE, ALSO, AM
I NOT? SINCE I... INADVER-
TENTLY DESTROYED X-FACTOR'S
OLD HEADQUARTER

...THEIR *NEW*
HEADQUARTERS
IS ME!



LOTS OF
THINGS CHANGE,
SHIP, SOME OF
THEM, EVEN FOR
THE *BETTER*.

SO MAYBE EVEN
BEING SENT AWAY
TO SCHOOL WON'T
BE SO *BAD*.

MAYBE...

AN UNABASHED PLUG!
COMING IN JULY...
X-TERMINATORS
THE X-FACTOR KIDS
THE X-FACTOR KIDS
ATTEND SCHOOL--TILL
SOMETHING MUCH
WORSE COMES ALONG!



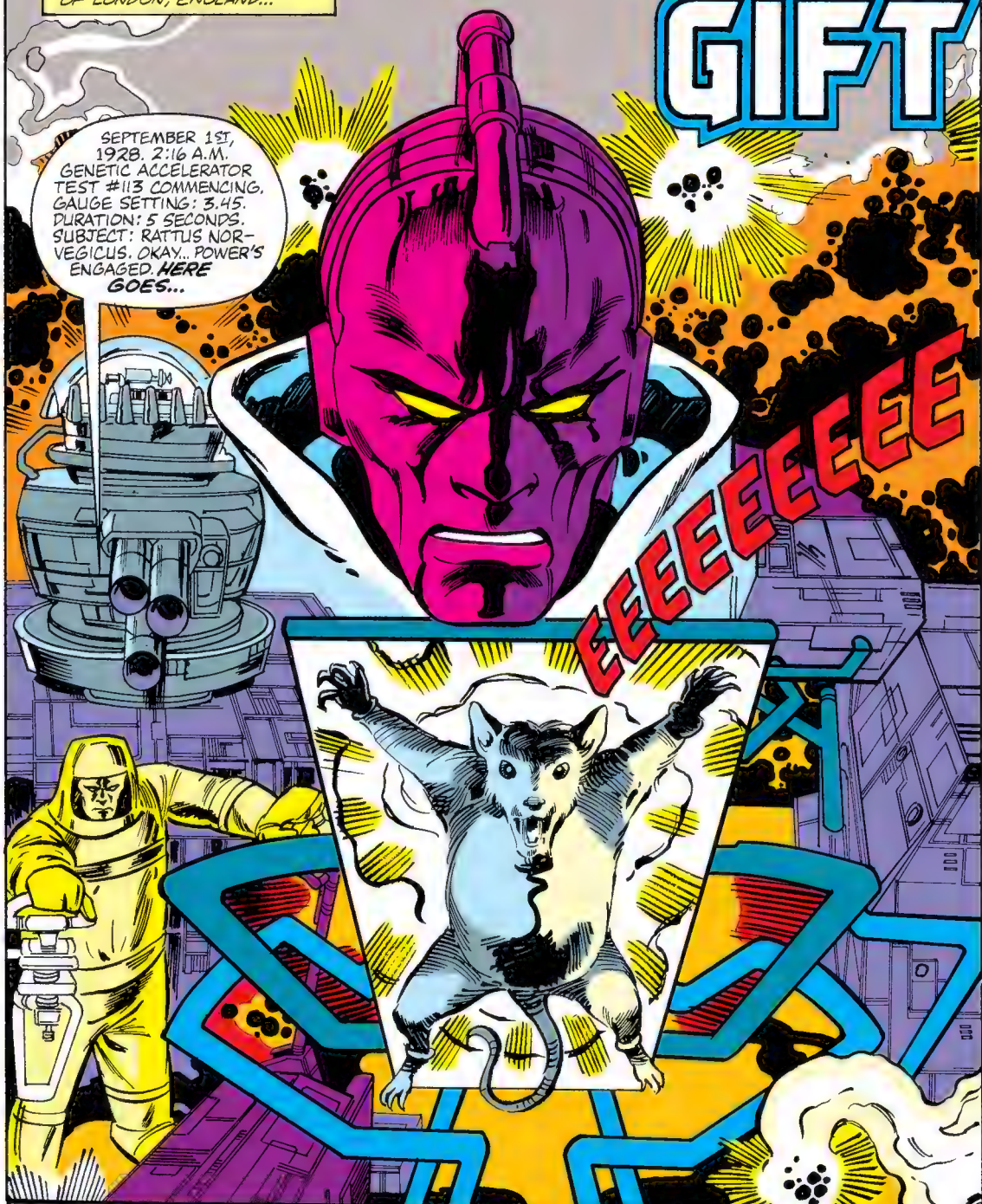
Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY

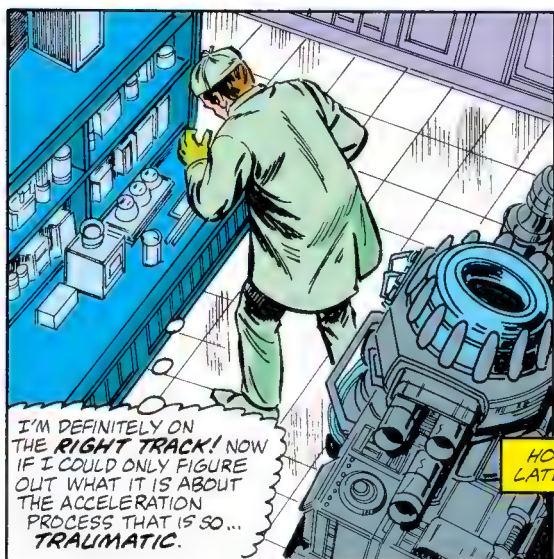
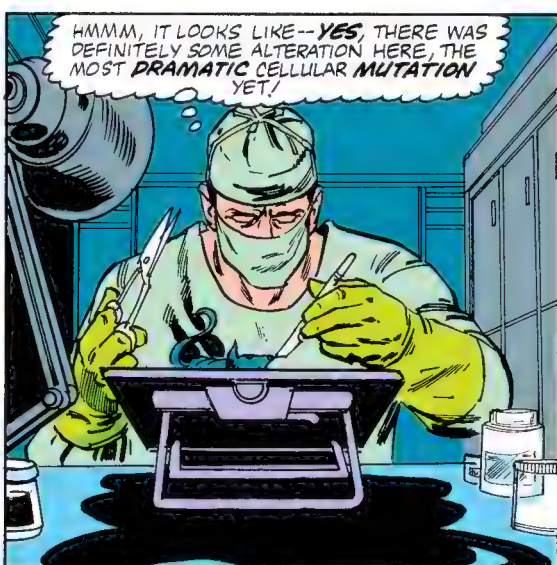
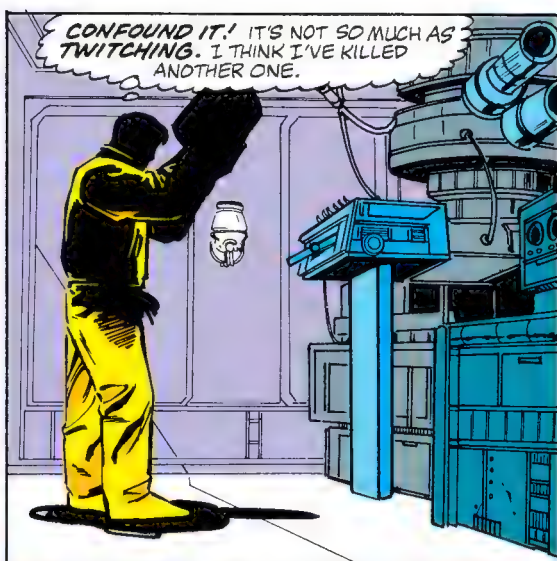
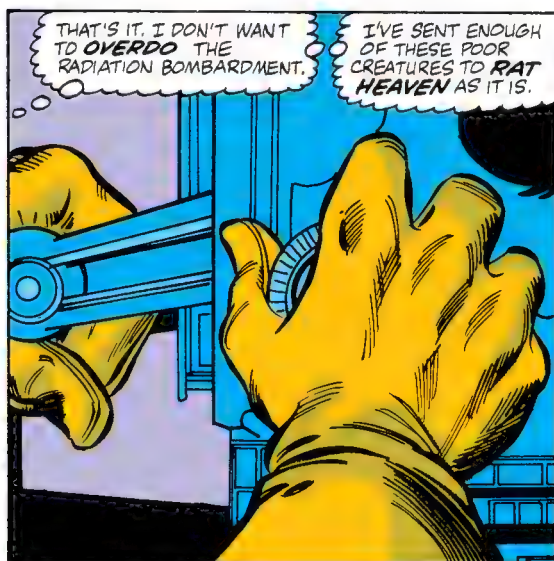
THE BASEMENT LABORATORY
OF HERBERT EDGAR
WYNDHAM IN THE SUBURBS
OF LONDON, ENGLAND...

SEPTEMBER 1ST,
1928. 2:16 A.M.
GENETIC ACCELERATOR
TEST #113 COMMENCING.
GAUGE SETTING: 3.45.
DURATION: 5 SECONDS.
SUBJECT: RATTUS NOR-
VEGICUS. OKAY... POWER'S
ENGAGED. HERE
GOES...

THE GIFT



MARK GRUENWALD PARIS CULLINS TONY DeZUNICA KEN LOPEZ GREGORY WRIGHT RALPH MACCHIO TOM DeFALCO
story pencils inks letters colors editor editor-in-chief





I'VE RUN OUT OF **RATS**. MY EXPERIMENTS WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL I CAN ACQUIRE **SOME MORE**.

UNNN! CAN'T TELL IF IT'S THE CELLAR STAIRS CREAKING OR MY LEGS. I MUST HAVE BEEN **STANDING ALL NIGHT!**



HI, **MUM**. POSTMAN COME YET?

I BELIEVE SO, DEAR. CAN I FIX YOU SOMETHING FOR **BREAKFAST?**

MAYBE LATER, **MUM**. HAVEN'T **SLEPT** YET.

HERBERT!



WHAT HAVE WE HERE? A CATALOGUE... THE LATEST JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, A FEW BILLS, AND... WHAT'S **THIS?**

IT'S FROM **OXFORD!**



MY WORD! IT'S AN INVITATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GENETICS TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH IN GENEVA!

PROFESSOR HANLEY MUST HAVE ARRANGED FOR ME TO RECEIVE **THIS!**



BUT HOW WILL I AFFORD THE **FARE** THERE? EVERY SHILLING OF FATHER'S INHERITANCE I'VE ALREADY SPENT ON **MACHINE PARTS!**

I MUST FIND A WAY, NO MATTER **WHAT!** I WILL BRING MY GENETIC ACCELERATOR AND **FORCE** THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE **GENIUS** OF MY WORK.

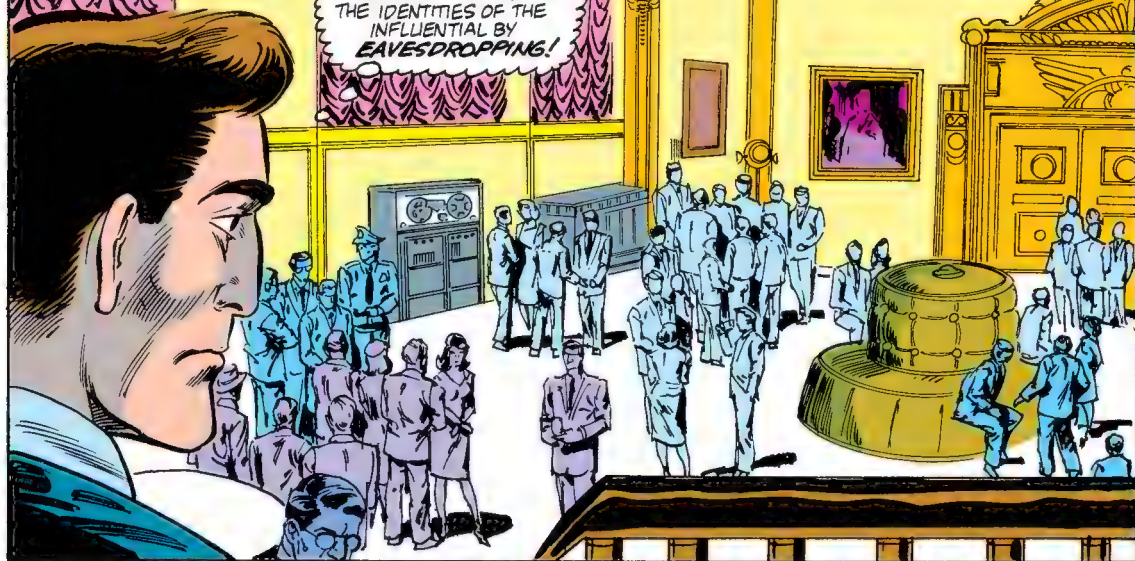
THEY WILL--THEY **MUST** RECOGNIZE ME! I NEED FINANCIAL BACKING TO PROCEED FURTHER. PERHAPS I CAN FIND A **SPONSOR**, OR WRANGLE A SCHOLARSHIP TO **OXFORD!**

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND...

BLESS YOU, MUM! THANKS TO YOUR
TIRELESS LABOR PASSING THE HAT
AMONG THE RELATIONS, I AM **HERE!**

AND SO IS EVERYBODY WHO'S **ANYBODY**
IN THE FIELD OF THE LIFE SCIENCES! I
WISH I KNEW WHO WAS WHO BY **SIGHT**,
BUT NONE OF THE JOURNALS PUBLISH
PHOTOGRAPHS OF ITS CONTRIBUTORS!

I WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO
MINGLE... TRY TO GLEAN
THE IDENTITIES OF THE
INFLUENTIAL BY
EAVESDROPPING!



THAT MAN OVER THERE
CERTAINLY HAS A COTERIE.
I WONDER WHO HE--

OH.

PARDON
ME.



ANY
IDEA WHO
SOME OF
THESE
LEARNED
FELLOWS
ARE?

A FEW. THAT FELLOW
OVER THERE IS THE GREAT
POLISH GENETICIST
WLADYSLAV SHINSKY.
AND THAT DWARF NEXT
TO HIM IS HIS STUDENT,
AN AUSTRIAN NAMED
ARNIM ZOLA.

THE OTHERS I
DON'T RECOGNIZE.



YOU'RE AN AMERICAN.

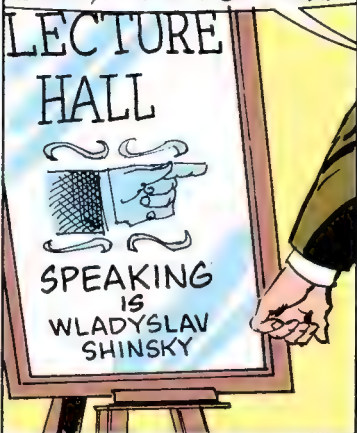
THE NAME'S
JONATHAN DREW.
I'M STUDYING
ZOOLOGY AT YALE.
ARTHROPODS
ARE MY PARTICULAR
LOVE. YOU'RE ENGLISH?

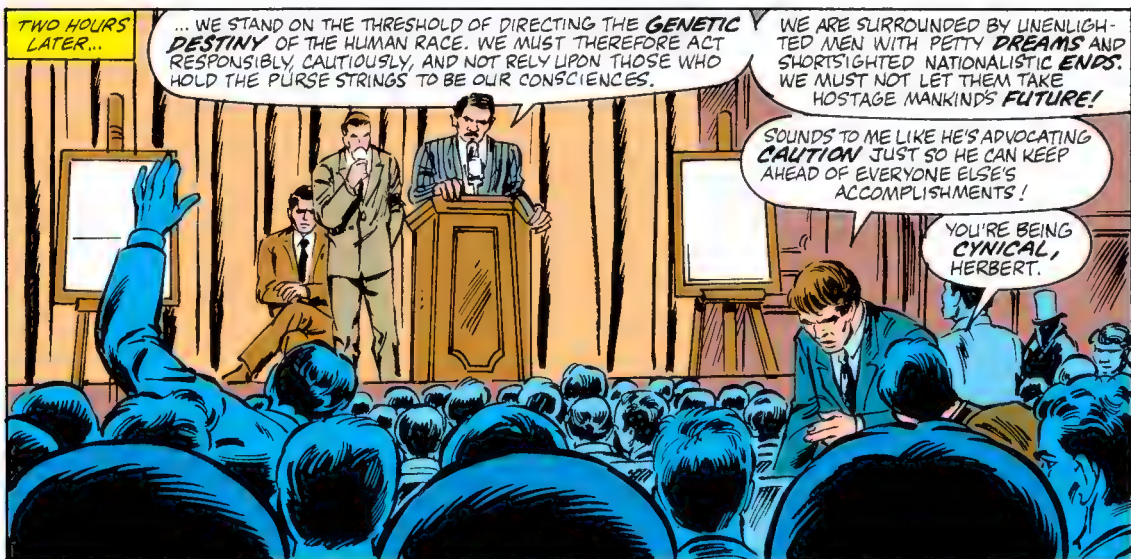
APPROXIMATELY
MY AGE...
SURELY HE IS
BUT A STUDENT.

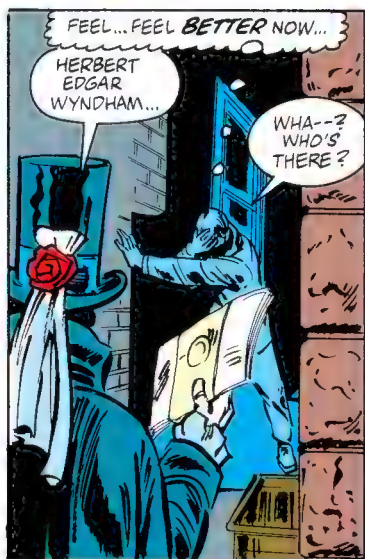
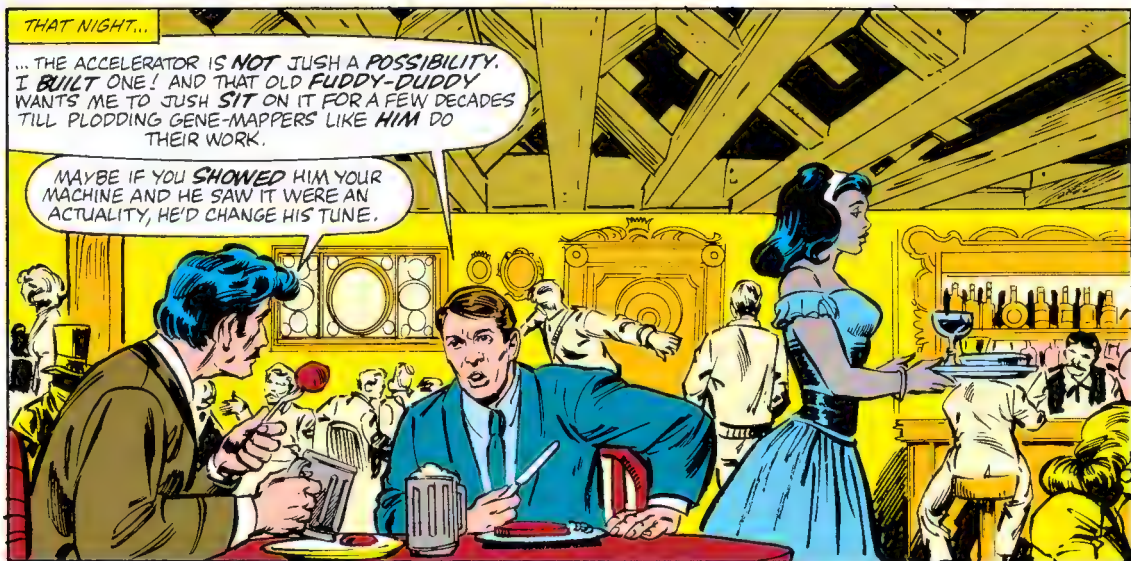


YES.
HERBERT EDGAR WYNDHAM.
I'M... AWAITING A SCHOLARSHIP
TO OXFORD. PLEASED TO MAKE
YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

PROFESSOR SHINSKY IS THE CONVEN-
TION'S **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**. HE'S
SUPPOSED TO INTRODUCE ALL OF THE
OTHER NOBEL LAUREATES AND OTHER
MEN OF DISTINCTION. COME ON,
HERBERT, LET'S GET A **GOOD SEAT**.







CONTINUED IN PUNISHER ANNUAL #1!

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64
PAGES

THE NEW MUTANTS

THE EVOLUTIONARY WAR™



**A NEW
MUTANT
CHANGED
FOREVER!**

A NEW JERSEY
CHEMICAL DUMP...

MIND GAMES

GET
'EM, GLOW
WORM!

RADIO
WASH

WHAAM!

RADI-
ATION'S
GONNA
KILL US
IF THEY
DON'T!

MIGHT AS
WELL TAKE 'EM
WITH US!

WRITER
LOUISE
SIMONSON

PENCILER
JUNE
BRIGMAN

INKER
BOB
MCLEOD

LETTERER
JOHN
WORKMAN

COLORIST
GLYNIS
OLIVER

EDITORS
ANN
NOCENTI & BOB
HARRAS

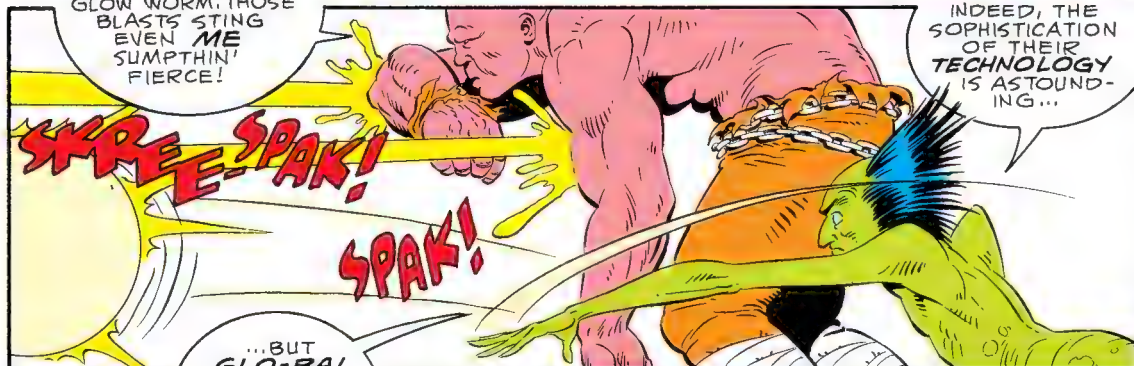
EDITOR IN CHIEF
TOM
DEFALCO



AN EXCELLENT
PLAN, MY FRIEND!
IF WE MUST DIE...
LET US DIE
STRIKING A
BLOW FOR
MUTANTS
EVERY-
WHERE!

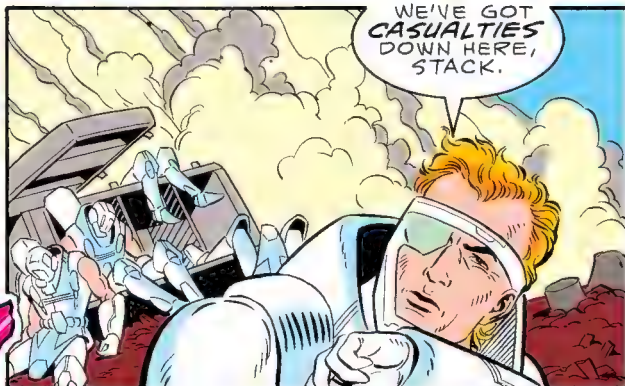
IN TRUTH, I AM MORE
SICKENED BY THESE
HUMANS' PERSECUTION
THAN BY THE **HAZARDOUS**
WASTE WHICH SURROUNDS
OUR DOMICILE.

THESE GUYS
AIN'T ORDINARY,
HUMANS! -OUCH!-
GET **BEHIND** ME,
GLOW WORM, THOSE
BLASTS STING
EVEN **ME**
SUMPTIN' FIERCE!

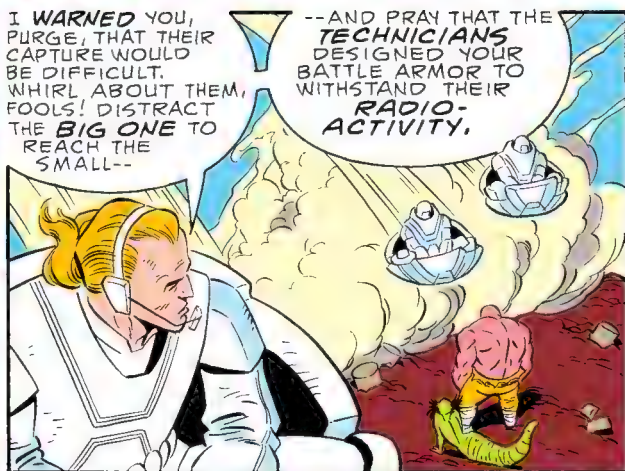


INDEED, THE
SOPHISTICATION
OF THEIR
TECHNOLOGY
IS ASTOUND-
ING...

...BUT
GLO-BAL
COCKTAILS
SHOULD STILL
CAUSE HAVOC
IN THEIR
RANKS!

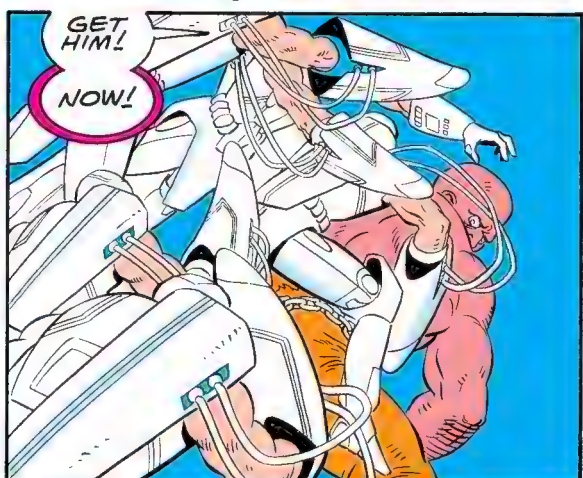


WE'VE GOT
CASUALTIES
DOWN HERE,
STACK.



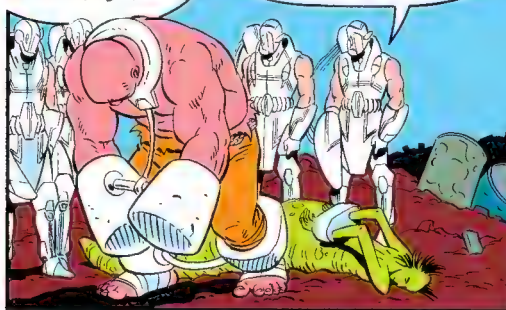
I WARNED YOU,
PURGE, THAT THEIR
CAPTURE WOULD
BE DIFFICULT.
WHIRL ABOUT THEM,
FOOLS! DISTRACT
THE **BIG ONE** TO
REACH THE
SMALL--

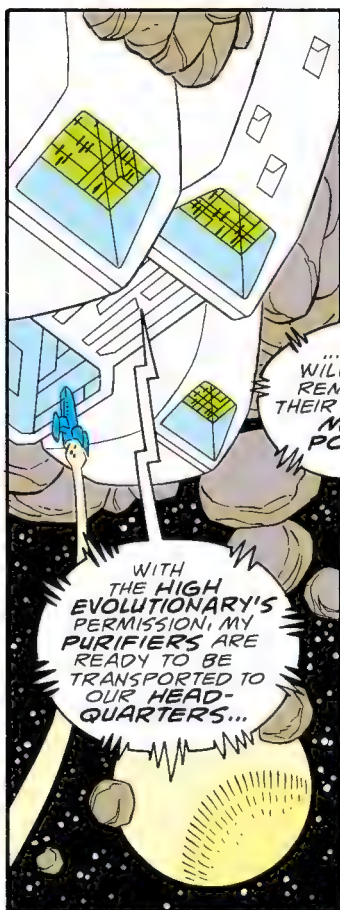
--AND PRAY THAT THE
TECHNICIANS
DESIGNED YOUR
BATTLE ARMOR TO
WITHSTAND THEIR
RADIO-
ACTIVITY.



I DON'T CARE HOW GOOD THEY CLAIM OUR ARMOR IS...

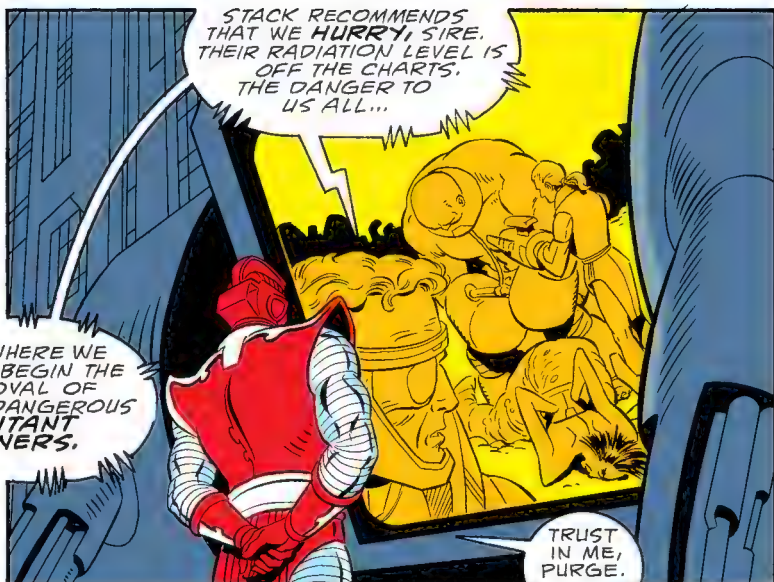
... I'M KEEPING AS FAR FROM THOSE MONSTERS AS I CAN GET!





...WHERE WE
WILL BEGIN THE
REMOVAL OF
THEIR DANGEROUS
MUTANT
POWERS.

WITH
THE HIGH
EVOLUTIONARY'S
PERMISSION, MY
PURIFIERS ARE
READY TO BE
TRANSPORTED TO
OUR HEAD-
QUARTERS...



STACK RECOMMENDS
THAT WE **HURRY**, SIRE.
THEIR RADIATION LEVEL IS
OFF THE CHARTS.
THE DANGER TO
US ALL...

TRUST
IN ME,
PURGE.



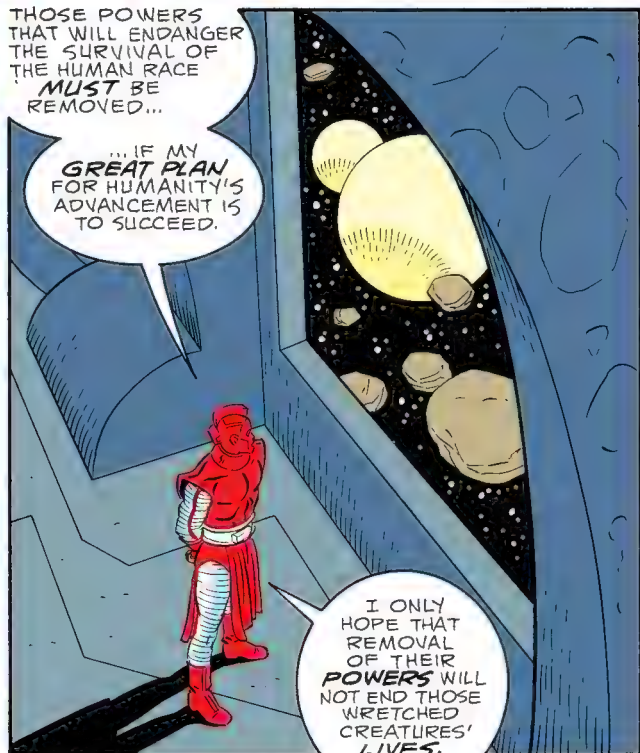
I WILL PROTECT
YOU. BUT...VERY
WELL, I WILL
RETURN YOU TO
YOUR HEAD-
QUARTERS...

...TO COM-
PLETE THE TASK
THAT I HAVE SET
BEFORE YOU.



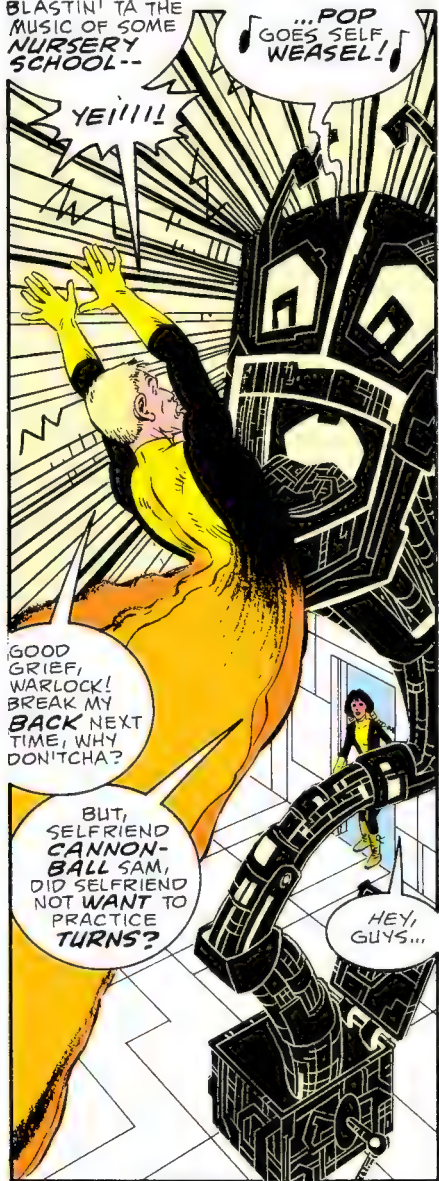
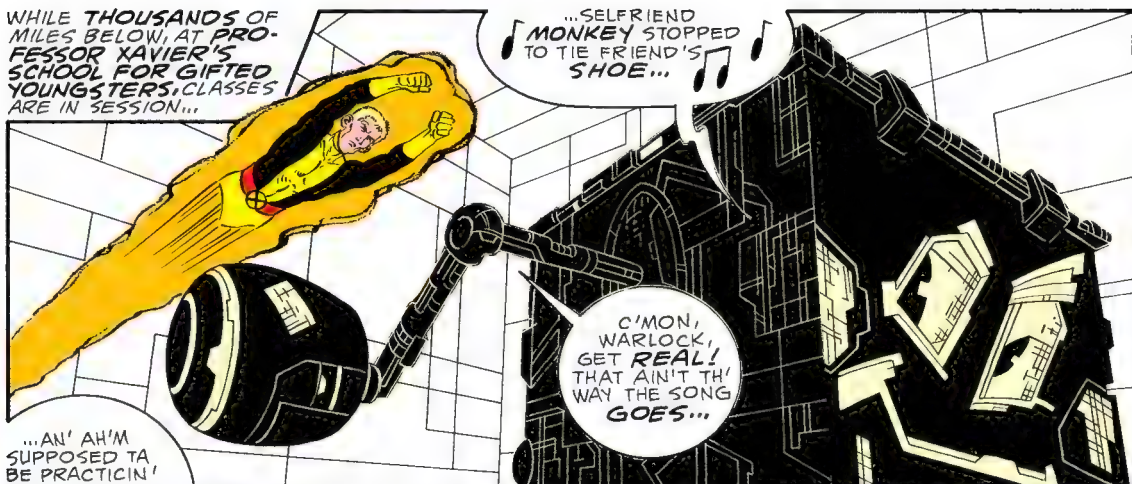
THOSE POWERS
THAT WILL ENDANGER
THE SURVIVAL OF
THE HUMAN RACE
MUST BE
REMOVED...

...IF MY
GREAT PLAN
FOR HUMANITY'S
ADVANCEMENT IS
TO SUCCEED.

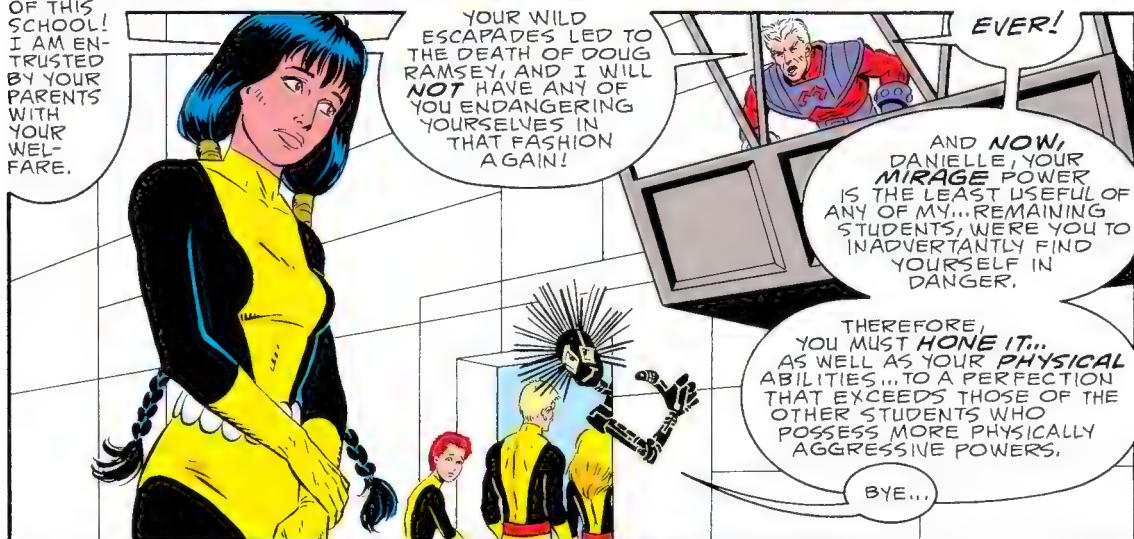


I ONLY
HOPE THAT
REMOVAL
OF THEIR
POWERS WILL
NOT END THOSE
WRETCHED
CREATURES'
LIVES.

WHILE THOUSANDS OF MILES BELOW, AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS, CLASSES ARE IN SESSION...







I DON'T CARE IF IT WAS DUMB. THE **SUNSPOT** POWER IS MINE, AND WE GO OFF ON SECRET MISSIONS ALL THE TIME WITHOUT HIS KNOWING AND--

ALL THE TIME? LIKE EXACTLY **ONCE, TWICE**, IF YOU COUNT RETURNING DOUG'S BODY.

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE HAVE NO RIGHT TO PREACH, ILLYANA! YOU MUST HAVE FREAKED OUT ABOUT **FIFTY TIMES**.

YOU EVEN TRIED TO KILL MAGNETO... I HALFWAY WISH YOU HAD.

DO YOU?

I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD WAIT FOR DANI TO GET BACK BEFORE WE READ AMARA'S LETTER, ONLY I REALLY WISH WE DIDN'T HAVE TO...

ARE YOU KIDDIN'? AH'M READIN' IT NOW -- **GOOD GRIEF!**

SAM... WHAT IS IT?

TALK ABOUT BEIN' FROM SOME-PLACE **STRANGE!** SAYS HERE HER DADDY'S GOT HER **ENGAGED** TO SOME PRINCE WHO LIVES UP IN THE MOUNTAINS...

...SHE NEVER EVEN **MET** THE DUDE, EMPATH'S STILL WITH HER, THOUGH...

ENGAGED? SHE'S BARELY **SIXTEEN!**

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT COULD HAPPEN...

...WHEN SHE JOINED THE **NEW MUTANTS?**

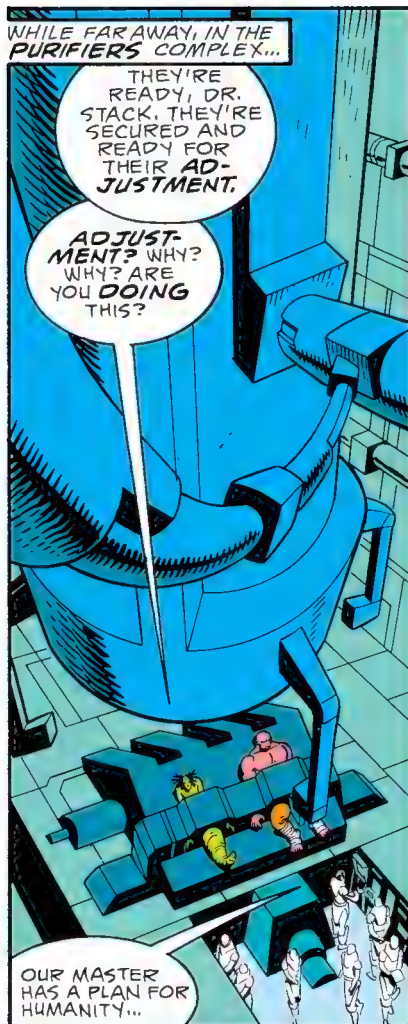
SERVES HER RIGHT FOR LEAVING US TO ATTEND THE **MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY**.

SHE'D HAVE HAD TO OBEY HER FATHER AND RETURN TO NOVA ROMA NO MATTER **WHAT** SCHOOL SHE WENT TO!

SHE MUST REALLY **HATE** BEING ENGAGED TO THAT OTHER BOY, THOUGH. I THINK SHE'S REALLY IN LOVE WITH EMPATH...

...AND THAT'S WHY SHE CHANGED SCHOOLS.

IF SHE **DOES** LOVE EMPATH, IT'S BECAUSE HE'S **CONTROLLING** HER.



WHILE FAR AWAY, IN THE PURIFIERS COMPLEX...

THEY'RE READY, DR. STACK. THEY'RE SECURED AND READY FOR THEIR ADJUSTMENT.

ADJUSTMENT? WHY? WHY? ARE YOU DOING THIS?

OUR MASTER HAS A PLAN FOR HUMANITY...

...A SCENARIO TO WHICH ALL OF US HERE ARE HIGHLY DEDICATED.

OUR HUMBLE TASK IS TO MAKE THE WORLD A **SAFE** PLACE FOR HIS PLAN TO... GROW TO FRUITION.



YOUR POWER-- YOUR MUTANT ABILITY TO **ABSORB** AND **CONTAIN** LETHAL DOSES OF **RADIO-ACTIVITY**--

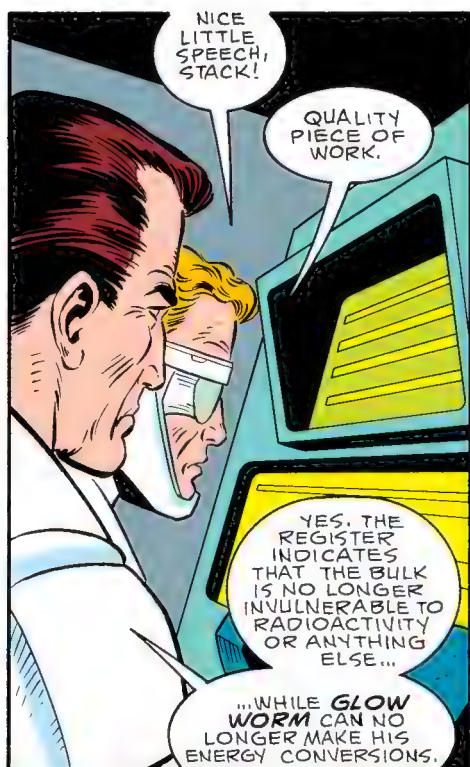
--POSES A THREAT TO ANY HUMAN WHO COMES NEAR YOU! YOU POLLUTE THE EARTH ITSELF...



CHONK!

WE ARE HONORED THAT HE HAS CHOSEN **OUR HANDS** TO REMOVE SUCH A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER...!





NICE
LITTLE
SPEECH,
STACK!

QUALITY
PIECE OF
WORK.

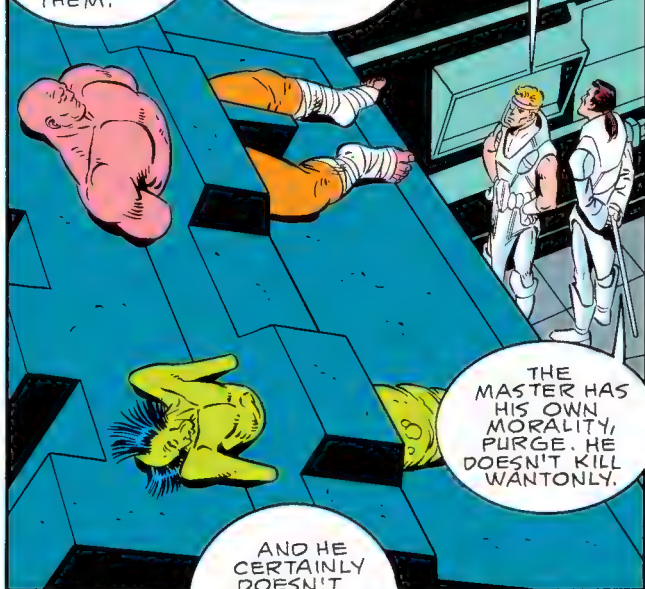
YES. THE
REGISTER
INDICATES
THAT THE BULK
IS NO LONGER
INVULNERABLE TO
RADIOACTIVITY
OR ANYTHING
ELSE...

...WHILE **GLOW
WORM** CAN NO
LONGER MAKE HIS
ENERGY CONVERSIONS.

ADJUSTMENT
COMPLETED AS
ORDERED.
STILL...I DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHY
THE MASTER
DIDN'T JUST
HAVE US
KILL
THEM.

THEY'RE STILL
RADIOACTIVE...
AND THAT WILL
DESTROY THEM
AS SURELY AS
OUR WEAPONS
WOULD... AND
MUCH MORE
PAINFULLY...

...WHICH I
PERSONALLY
THINK THEY
DESERVE,
BUT--

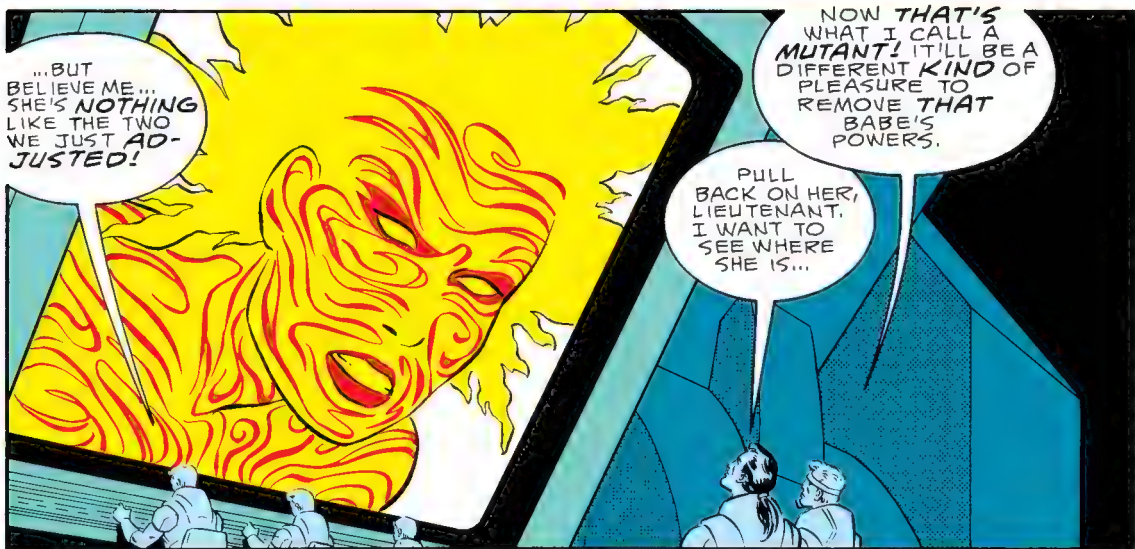


THE
MASTER HAS
HIS OWN
MORALITY.
PURGE. HE
DOESN'T KILL
WANTONLY.

AND HE
CERTAINLY
DOESN'T
ANSWER FOR
HIS ACTIONS
TO THE
LIKES
OF US.



DR. STACK
--OVER
HERE!
I'VE FOUND
ANOTHER ONE!
HIGH-LEVEL
ANGER
READING...



...BUT
BELIEVE ME...
SHE'S **NOTHING**
LIKE THE TWO
WE JUST AD-
JUSTED!

NOW **THAT'S**
WHAT I CALL A
MUTANT! IT'LL BE A
DIFFERENT **KIND** OF
PLEASURE TO
REMOVE **THAT**
BABE'S
POWERS.

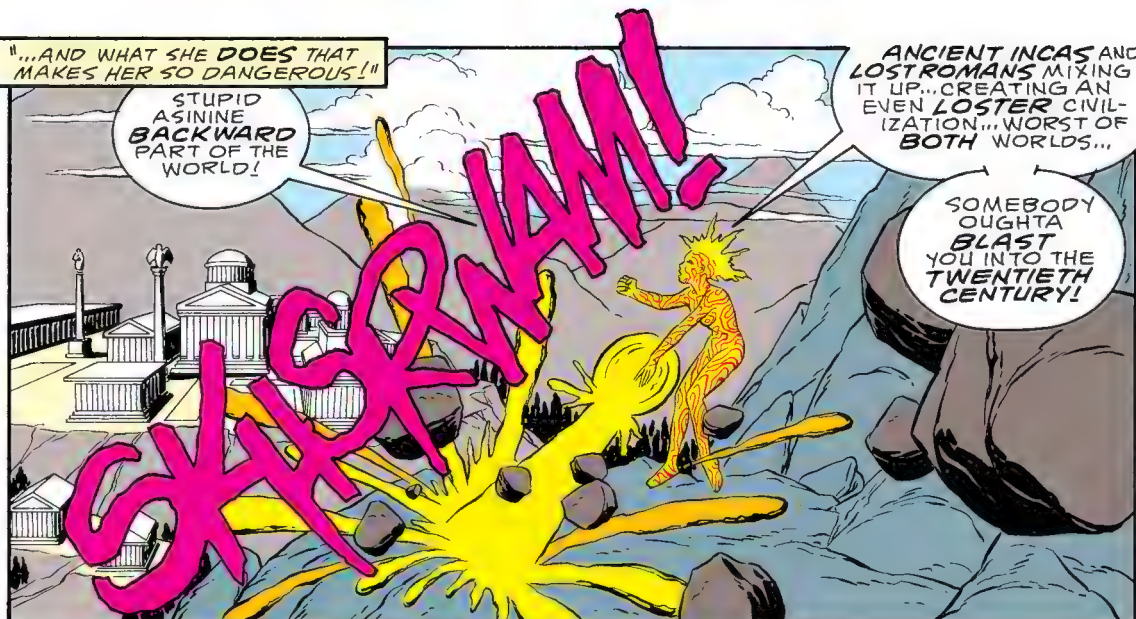
PULL
BACK ON HER,
LIEUTENANT.
I WANT TO
SEE WHERE
SHE IS...

"...AND WHAT SHE DOES THAT MAKES HER SO DANGEROUS!"

STUPID
ASININE
BACKWARD
PART OF THE
WORLD!

ANCIENT INCAS AND
LOST ROMANS MIXING
IT UP...CREATING AN
EVEN **LOSTER** CIVIL-
IZATION...WORST OF
BOTH WORLDS...

SOMEBODY
OUGHTA
BLAST
YOU INTO THE
TWENTIETH
CENTURY!

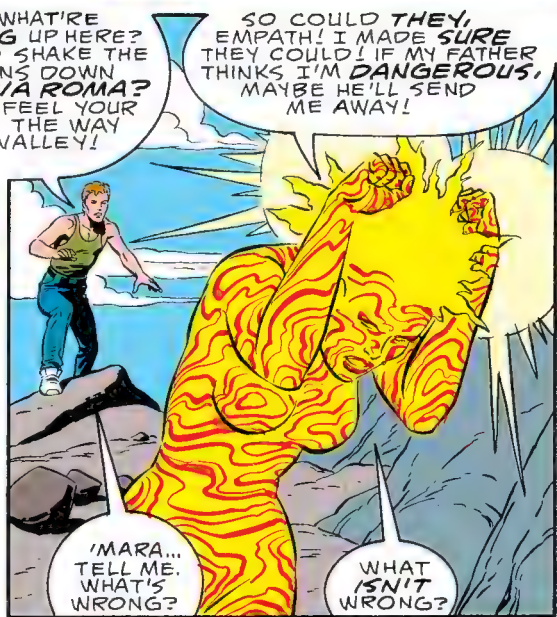


NOBODY
BETROTHS
ANYBODY
ANYMORE TO
PEOPLE THEY
HAVEN'T EVEN
MET!

ESPECIALLY
NOT PEOPLE
WHO--

AMARA, WHAT'RE
YOU **DOING** UP HERE?
TRYING TO SHAKE THE
MOUNTAINS DOWN
ONTO NOVA ROMA?
I COULD FEEL YOUR
FURY ALL THE WAY
IN THE VALLEY!

SO COULD THEY,
EMPATH! I MADE **SURE**
THEY COULD! IF MY FATHER
THINKS I'M **DANGEROUS**,
MAYBE HE'LL SEND
ME AWAY!



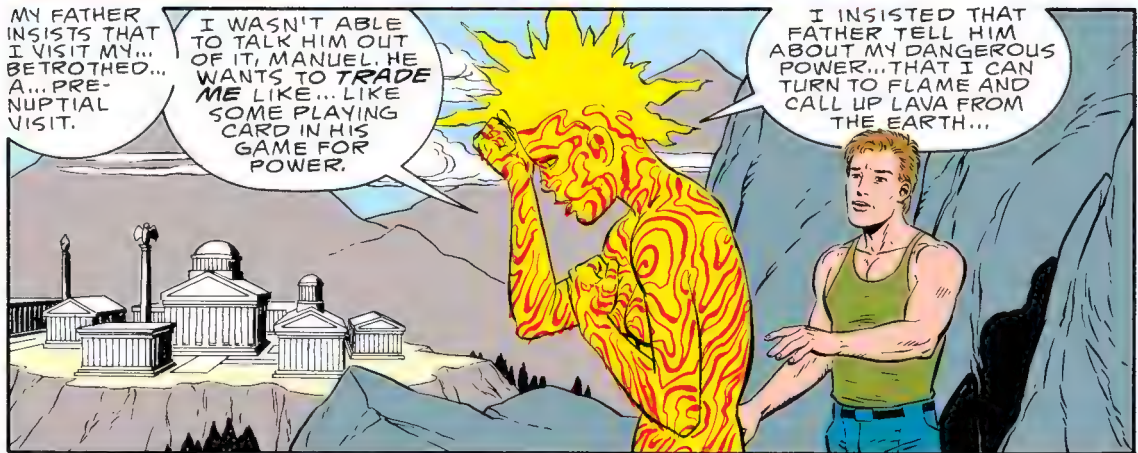
'MARA...
TELL ME.
WHAT'S
WRONG?

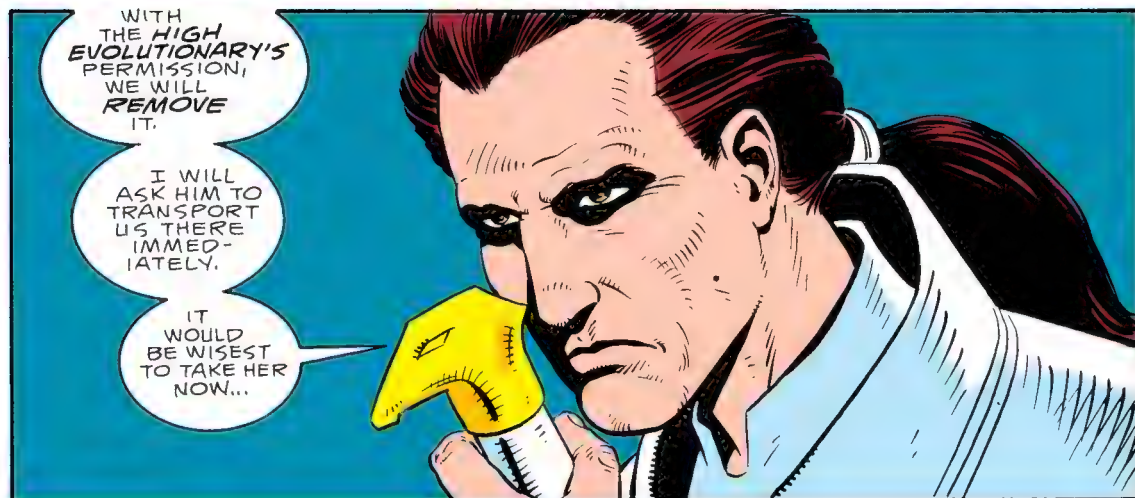
WHAT
ISN'T
WRONG?

MY FATHER
INSISTS THAT
I VISIT MY...
BETROTHED...
A... PRE-
NUPTIAL
VISIT.

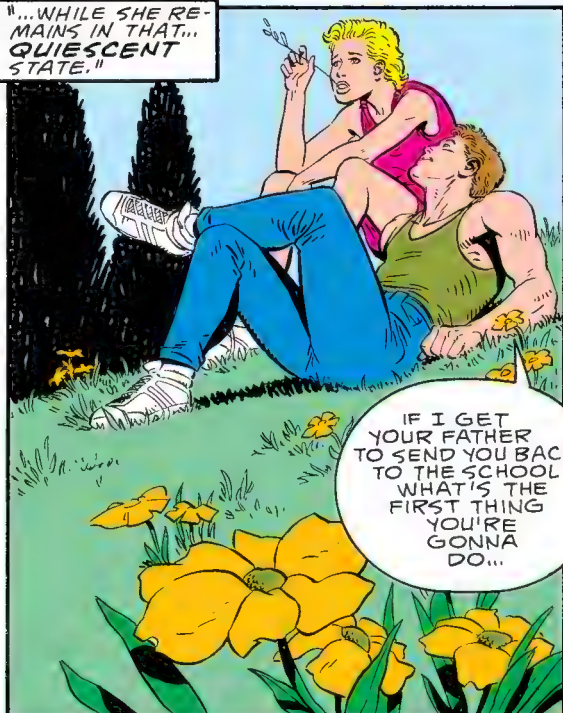
I WASN'T ABLE
TO TALK HIM OUT
OF IT, MANUEL. HE
WANTS TO **TRADE**
ME LIKE...LIKE
SOME PLAYING
CARD IN HIS
GAME FOR
POWER.

I INSISTED THAT
FATHER TELL HIM
ABOUT MY DANGEROUS
POWER...THAT I CAN
TURN TO FLAME AND
CALL UP LAVA FROM
THE EARTH...





"...WHILE SHE REMAINS IN THAT... QUIESCENT STATE."



IF I GET YOUR FATHER TO SEND YOU BACK TO THE SCHOOL, WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU'RE GONNA DO...



...ASIDE FROM SMOTHERING ME IN KISSES --?

THERE SHE IS! NOW--

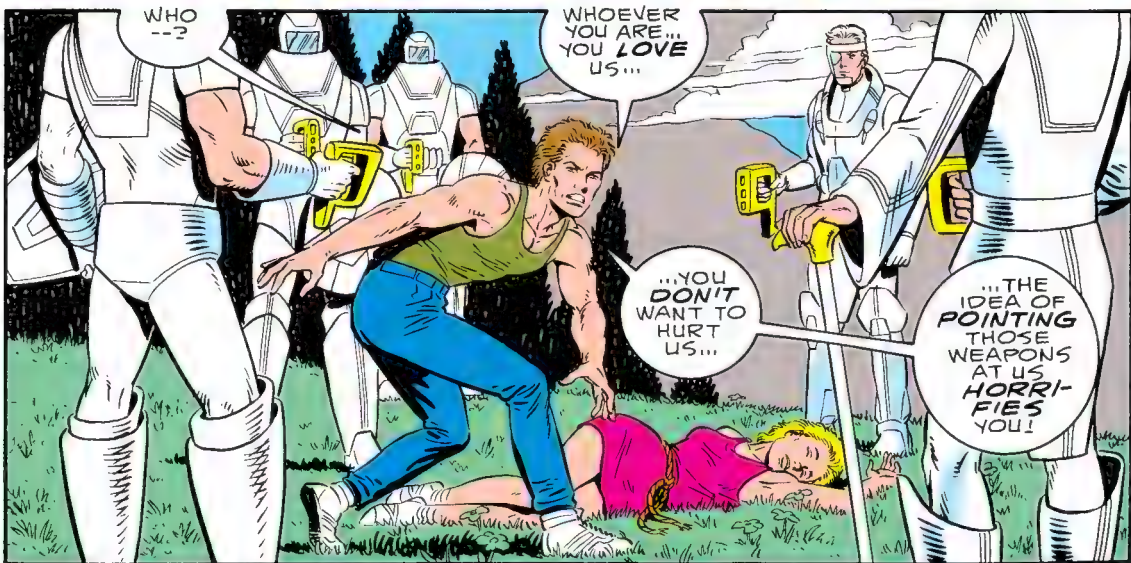


ZAP!

AHH!

AMARA!

QUICKLY!

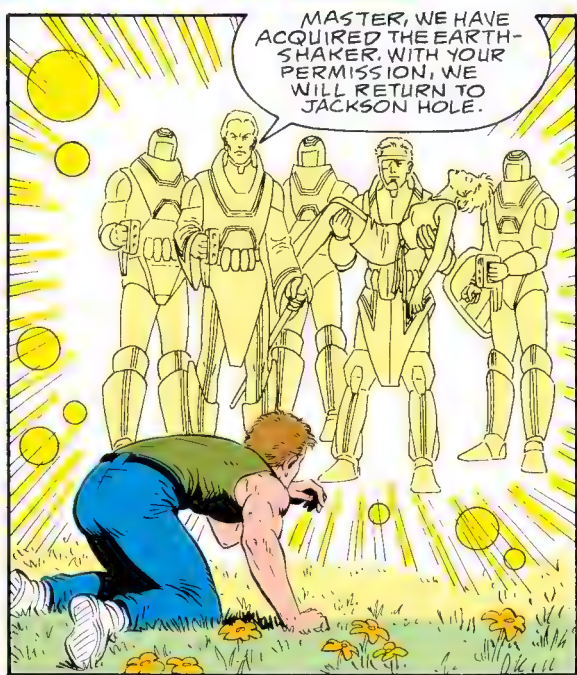
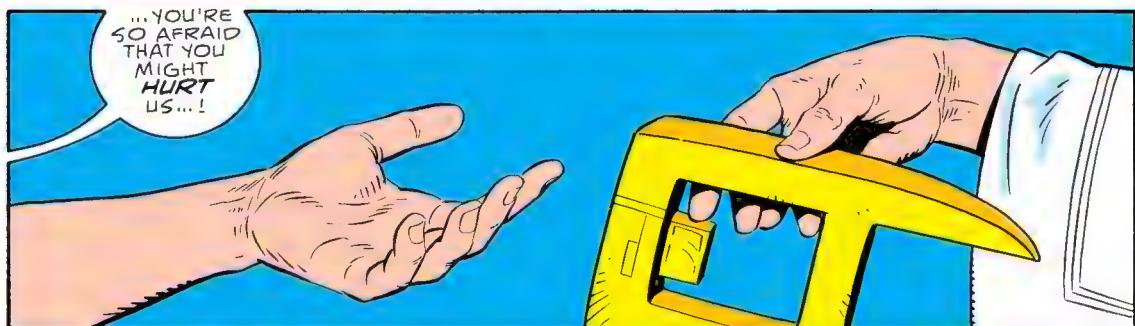


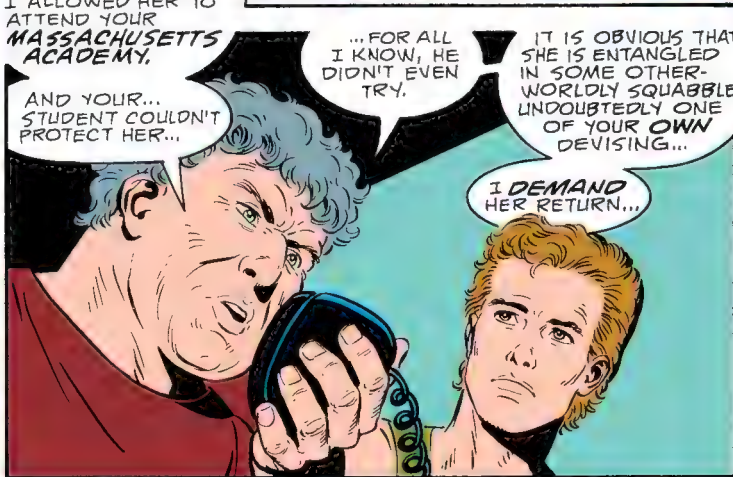
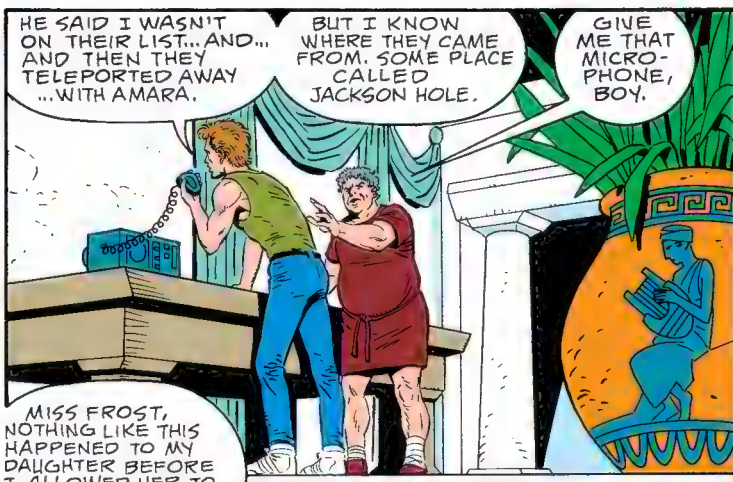
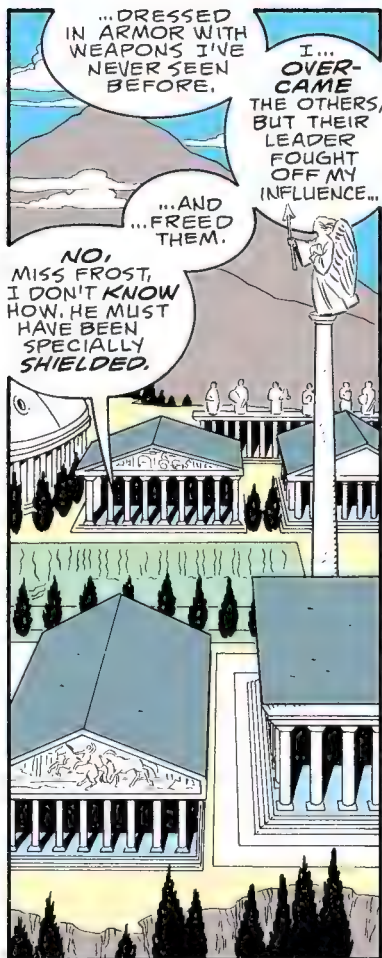
WHO --?

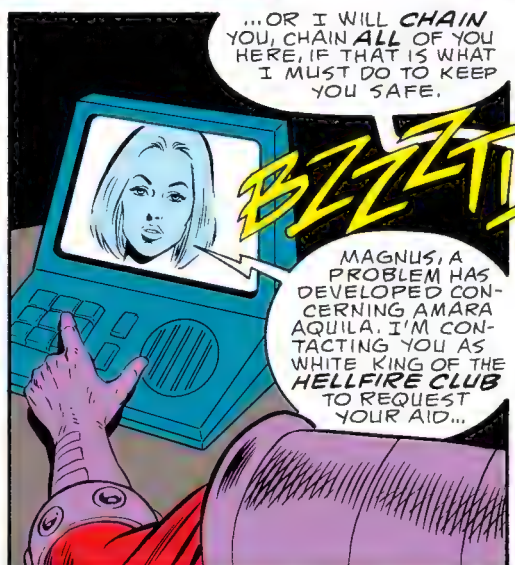
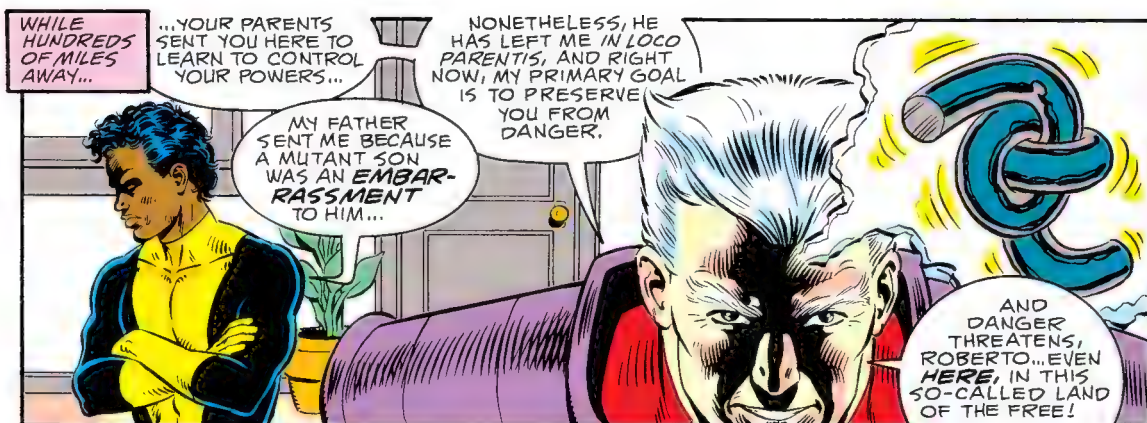
WHOEVER YOU ARE... YOU LOVE US...

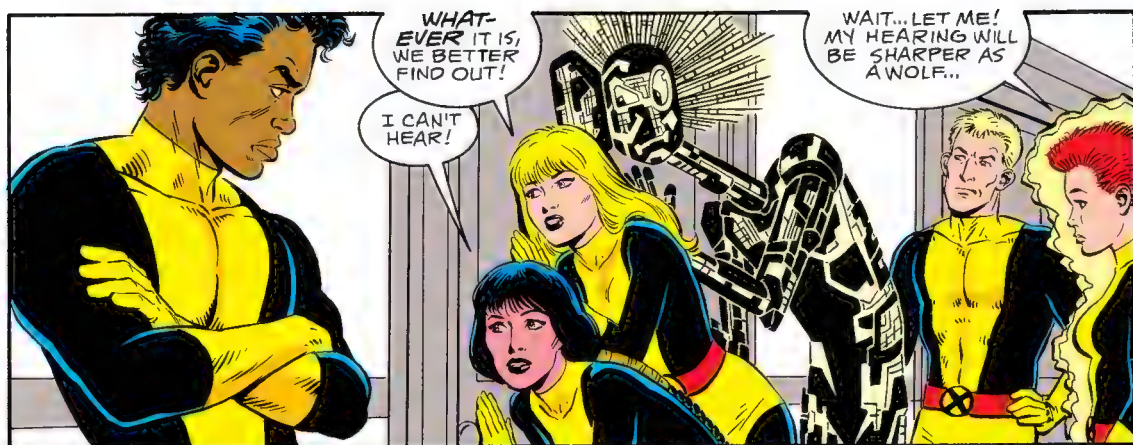
...YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT US...

...THE IDEA OF POINTING THOSE WEAPONS AT US HORRIFIES YOU!









THIS IS A
DIRECT
ORDER.
FLOUT IT
AT YOUR
PERIL.



DO NOT WORRY,
MAGNETO MASTER OF
MAGNETISM SIR,
SELF WOULD NOT CON-
SIDER IMPERILING
SELF...

...WITH-
OUT GOOD
CAUSE.

I JUST
WISH WE KNEW
WHERE
AMARA'S
GONE.

MY
SCRYING
GLASS
WOULD HAVE
FOUND HER,
ONLY FORGE
SHATTERED
IT IN
LIMBO.*

GIMME
A BREAK.
IT WASN'T
LIKE FORGE
EXACTLY
ASKED TO
BE THERE,
ILLYANA.

*IN NEW MUTANTS
#66. --BOB

PLEASE. IT DOESN'T
MATTER. I KNOW
WHERE AMARA IS.
LONGITUDE AND
LATITUDE. I
HEARD. LET'S
GO. PLEASE.

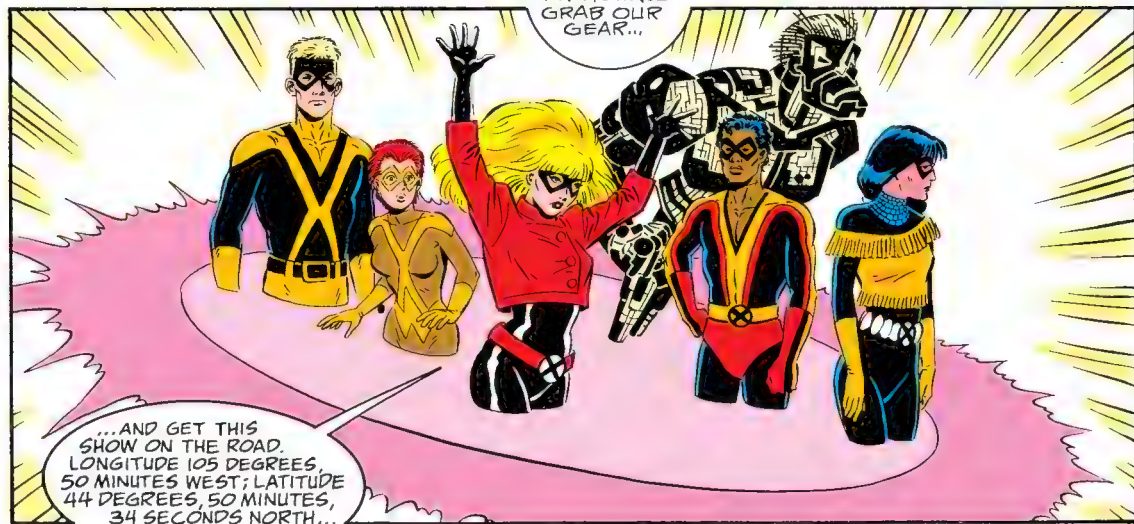
HEAD-
MASTER-
MAGNETO SAID
---?

MAGNETO SAYS LOTS OF
THINGS, 'LOCK. AND THEN HE
RUNS OFF TO THE HELL-
FIRE CLUB...

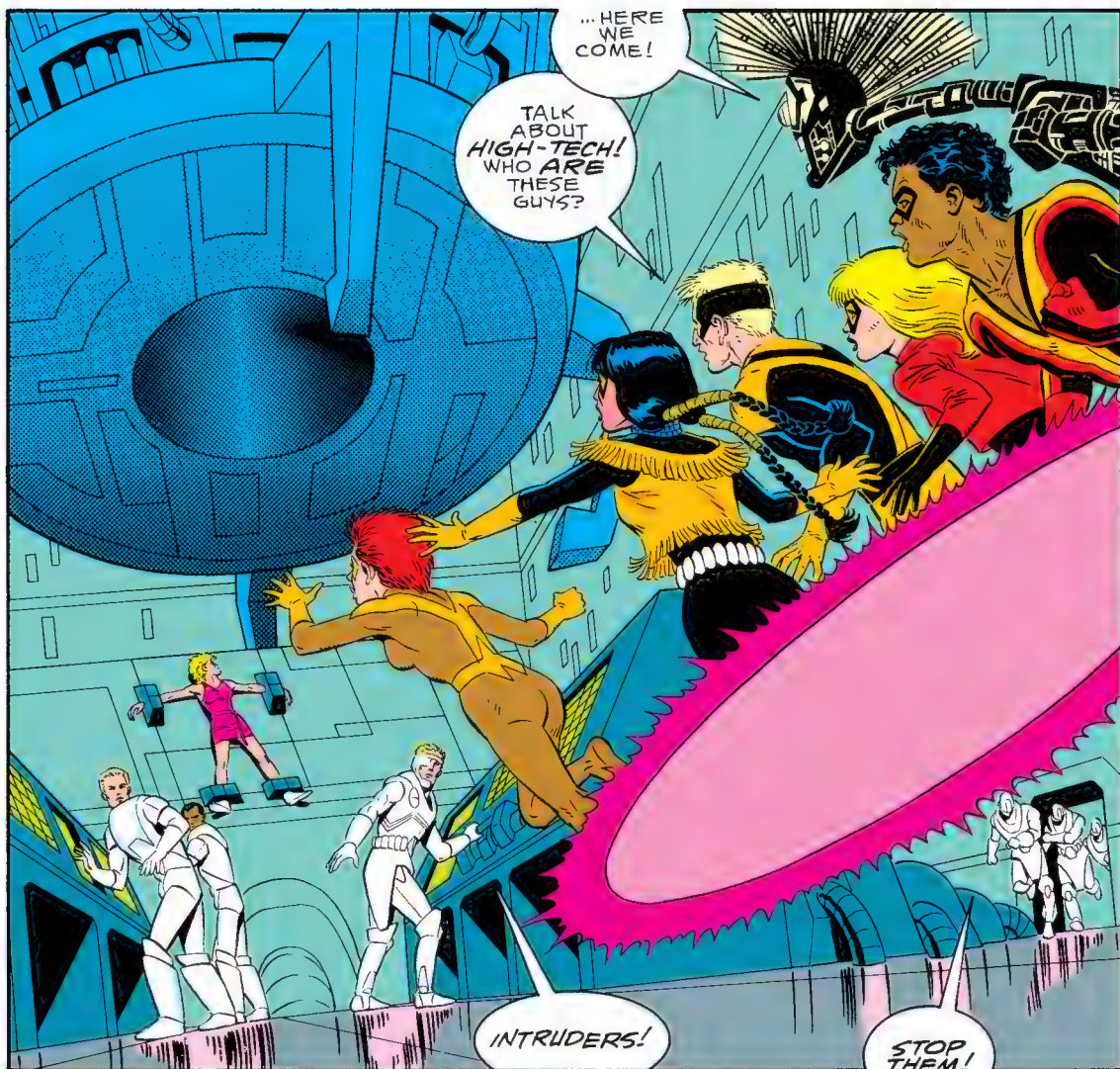
...WHEN IF HE'D JUST
TRUST US, HE'D ALREADY
BE THERE KICKING
THEIR TAILS!

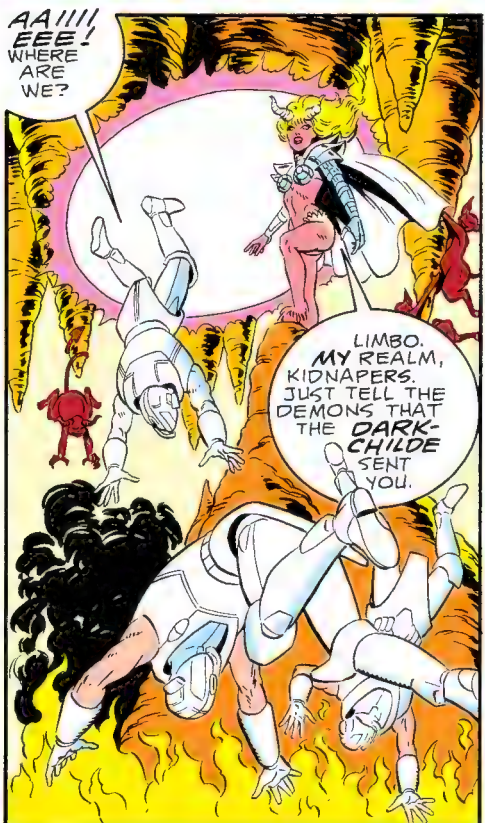
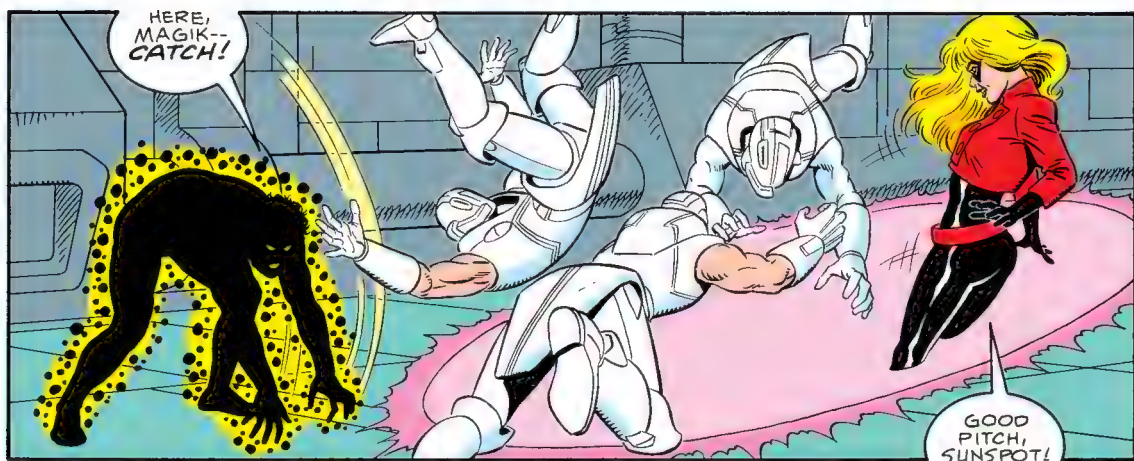
BOBBY'S RIGHT.
AMARA COULD
DIE WHILE
MAGNETO
AND THE
WHITE QUEEN
TALK.

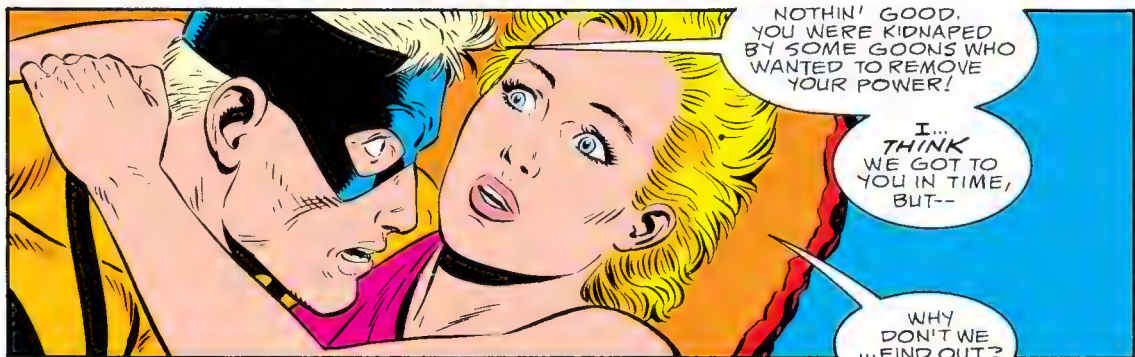
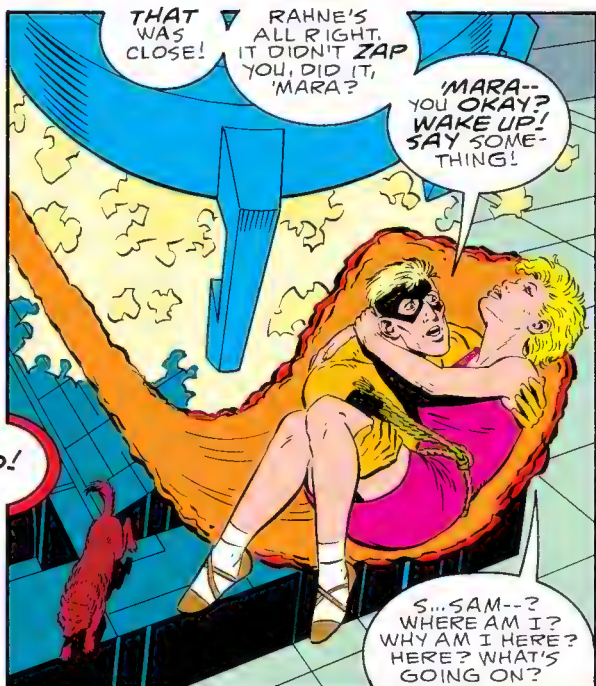
SO... I
'PORT US
TO THE
ATTIC... WE
GRAB OUR
GEAR...

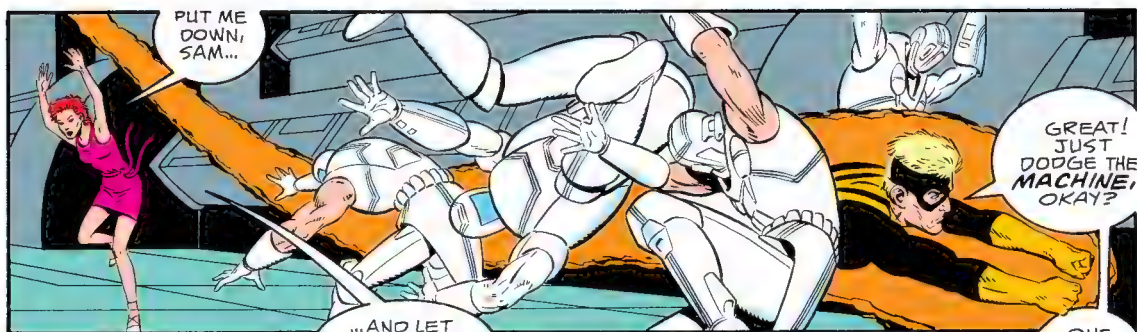


...AND GET THIS
SHOW ON THE ROAD.
LONGITUDE 105 DEGREES,
50 MINUTES WEST; LATITUDE
44 DEGREES, 50 MINUTES,
34 SECONDS NORTH...









PUT ME DOWN, SAM...

GREAT! JUST DODGE THE MACHINE, OKAY?

...AND LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

NO PROBLEM!

ONE OF THOSE DUDES TURNED IT ON AN' IT'S CRACKLIN' LIKE MAD!



NO!

WHAT IS IT, MIRAGE?

THE VALKYRIES' GIFT TO ME, SUN-SPOT.

I SEE THE DEATH GLOW ABOVE THE MUTANTS IN THOSE TUBES!

DEATH IS COMING ...FOR THEM.



MAYBE... AND MAYBE NOT. DON'T WORRY, MIRAGE. THIS IS A PROBLEM **SUNSPOT** CAN HANDLE.

NO! DON'T!

KEEP AWAY! GET BACK!

DON'T BE FRIGHTENED. IT ISN'T YOU I PLAN TO SMASH--



CRASH!
--BUT YOUR PRISON!

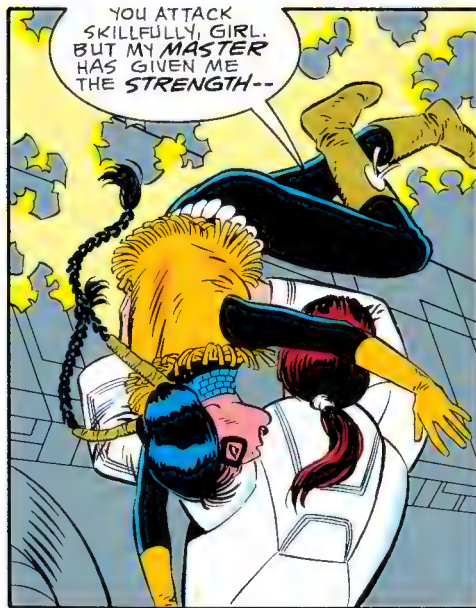
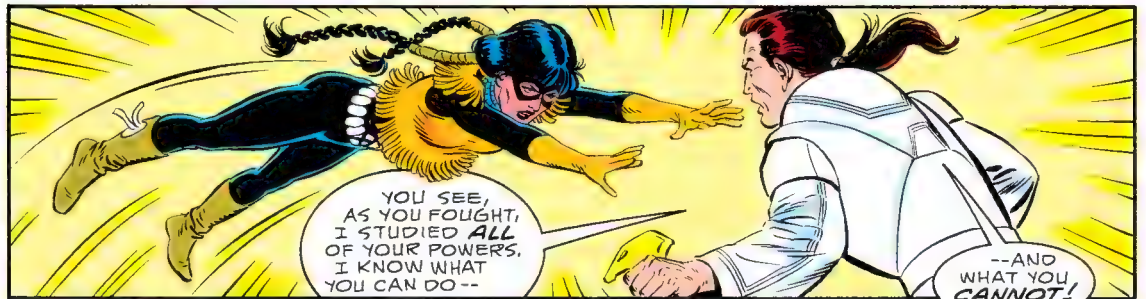
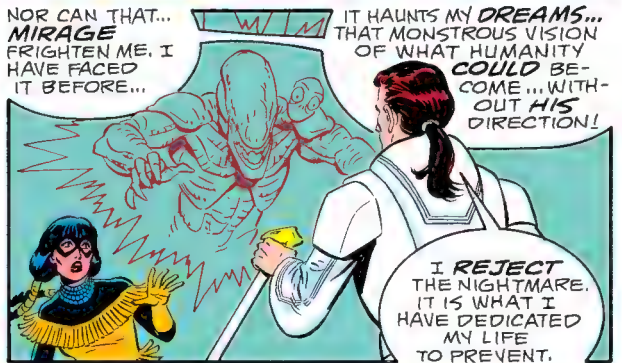
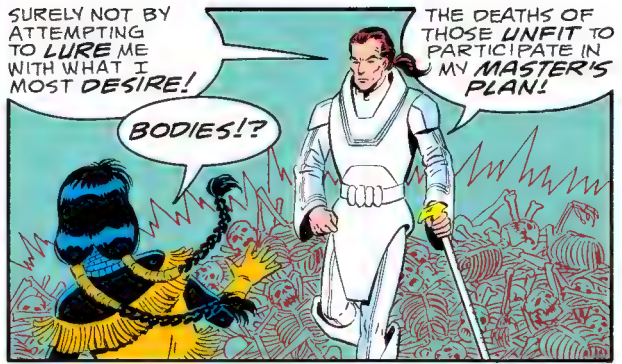


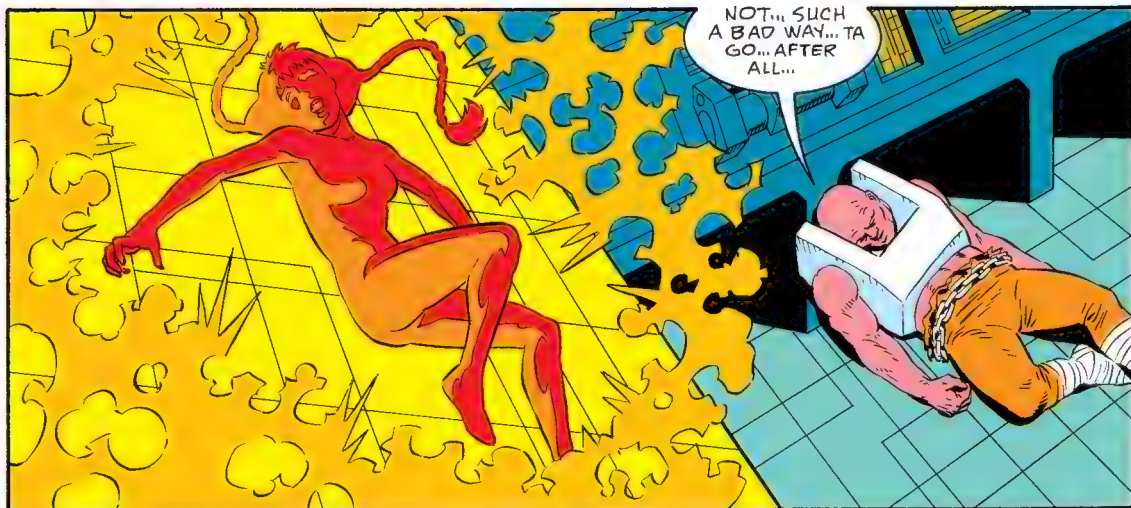
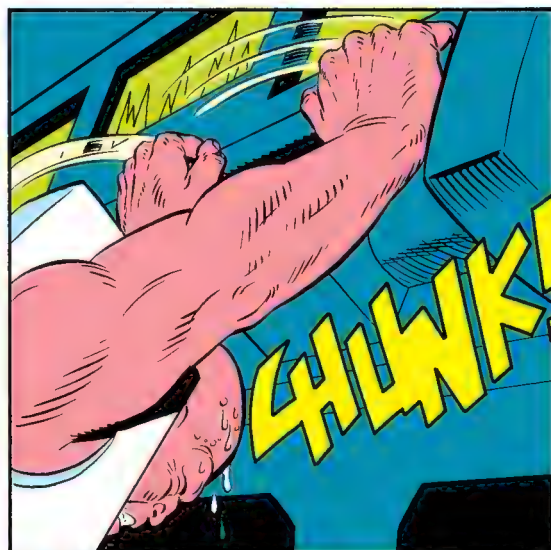
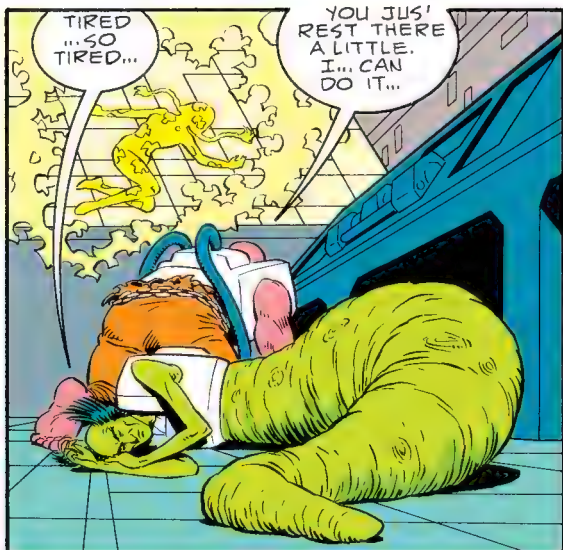
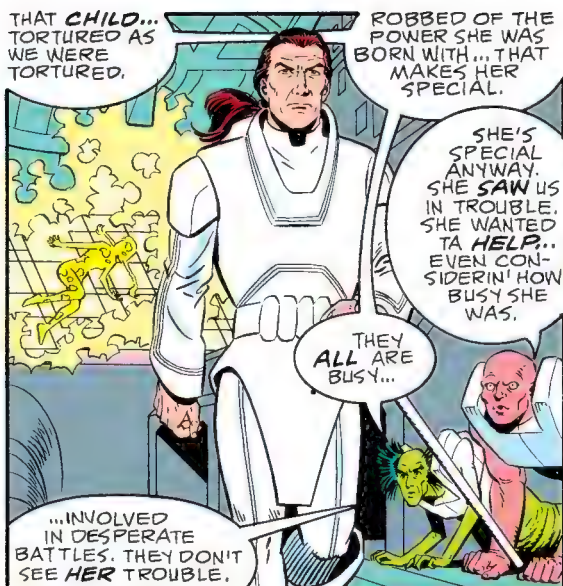
NOT FRIGHTENED... AT LEAST FOR OURSELVES... **RADIO-ACTIVE... DEADLY...**

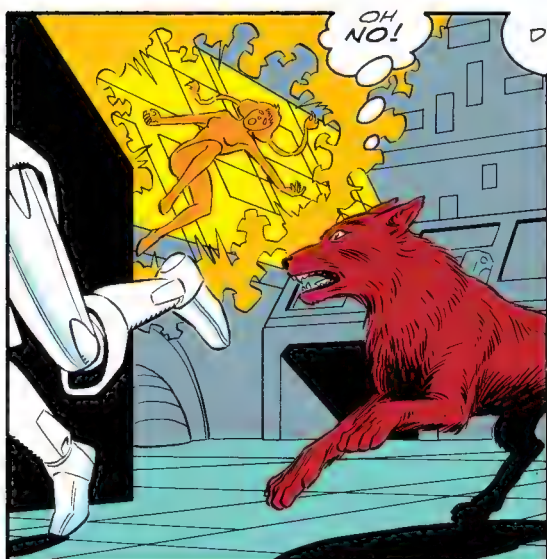
...KILL ANYBODY WE GET NEAR. DYING... ALMOST DEAD, ANYWAY. DON'T WANNA... TAKE YOU WITH US.

GET BACK, YOU FOOL!

SKREEOW!







DANI!



MIRAGE!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
UP
THERE?

RAHNE!
DON'T!
YOU'LL BE
HURT!

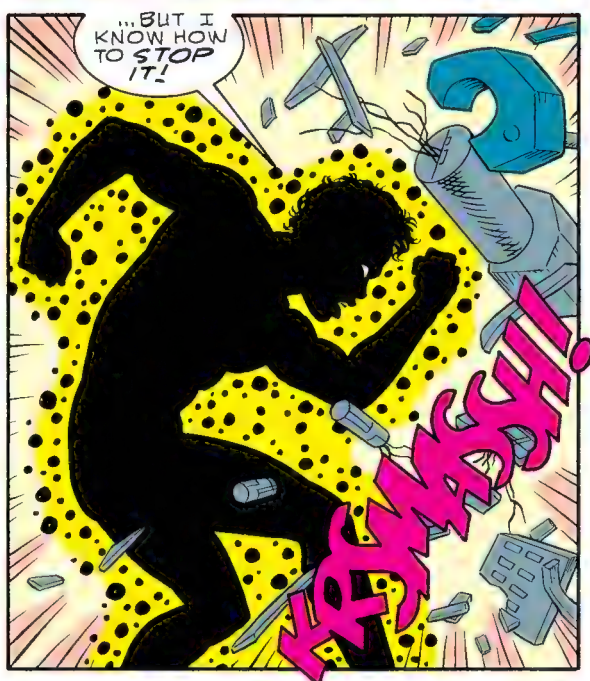


I HAVE TO
SAVE HER.
I SWITCHED
BACK TO WOLF
TO CATCH ONE
OF THOSE...
GOONS...

...BUT IN MY
WOLF FORM,
I DIDN'T FEEL
DANI'S PSI-
LINK AT ALL...

AND NOW--!
OH, SUNSPOT,
WHAT'S IT
DOING
TO HER?

I FEAR
THE
WORST...



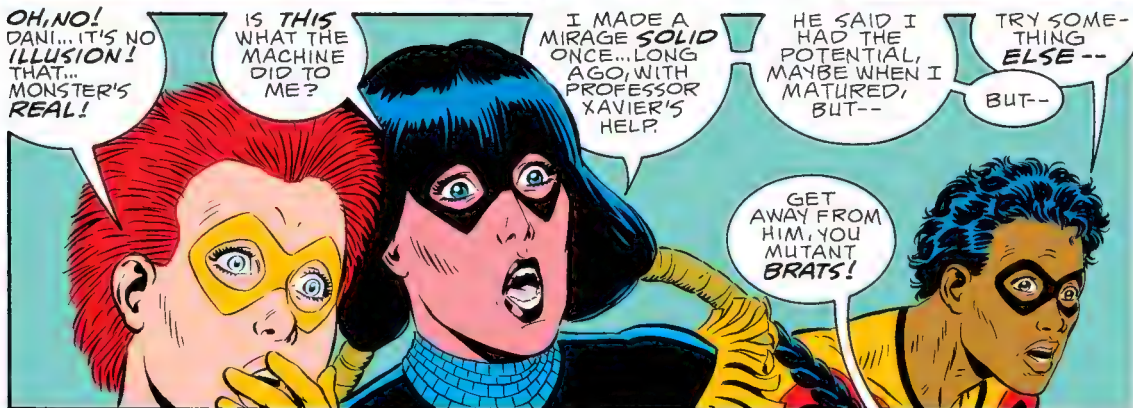
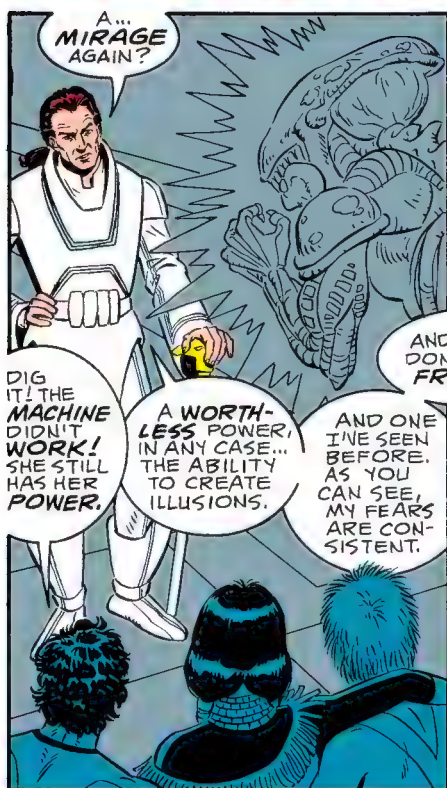
DANI! OH,
DANI, ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

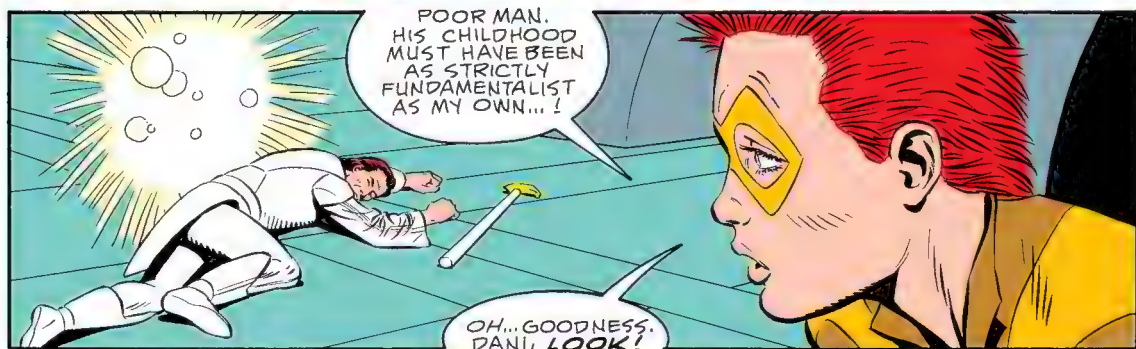
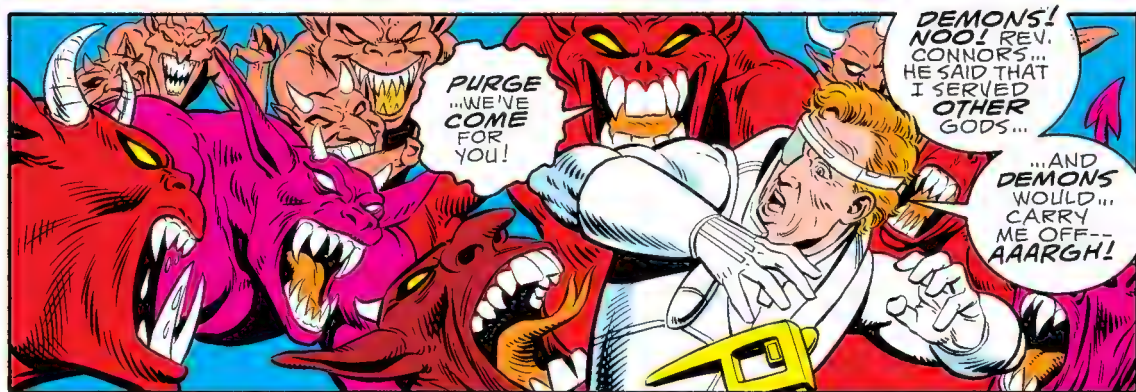
THAT WAS THE **POWER
REMOVAL**
MACHINE... WASN'T
IT?

I'M...
AFRAID...
OH, DANI,
I'M SO
SORRY...!

BUT I
TURNED IT OFF
PERMANENTLY!
SMASHED IT TO
SMITHERINES!
THEY WON'T
BE USING IT
ON ANYONE
ELSE!

SO...
YOU'VE
SAVED HER
LIFE, HAVE
YOU?







THEY'RE AFTER ALL OF US! THOSE... GOONS, TOO!

SO DO SOMETHING, MIRAGE! STOP THEM!

I CAN'T STOP THEM!



BUT SELFRIEND-MIRAGE CAN PULL IMAGE FROM PEOPLE'S MIND...

...AND SOMEHOW MAKE THEM REAL...

BUT SHE CAN'T CONTROL THEM, 'LOCK! ONCE THEY'RE HERE, THEY BEHAVE JUST LIKE PURGE WAS AFRAID THEY'D BEHAVE...



THEY ALMOST SEEM TO HAVE A LIFE OF THEIR OWN.

BUT THEY CAN'T, CAN THEY? THEY'RE ONLY HALLUCINATIONS THAT HAVE SOMEHOW BECOME REAL!



OUCH!

DANI, LISTEN! WHEN YOU CREATED THESE DEMONS, THE MUTANT MONSTER DISAPPEARED. SO WHY DON'T YOU--!

SWITCH MIRAGES? I... DON'T DARE. I WON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL GET! I MIGHT GET SOMETHING AS MUCH WORSE THAN THESE DEMONS AS THEY ARE WORSE THAN THE MUTANT MONSTER.



BUT... WHAT YOU WANT MOST NOW IS SOMETHING **SAFE** AND **GOOD**... NOT **EVIL** OR **DANGEROUS**.

PLEASE, YOU'VE GOT TO TRY. PULL FROM YOUR OWN MIND WHAT YOU WANT MOST!

THERE'RE DOZENS OF DEMONS. WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO **STOP--OW!**



SOME-THING... **SAFE**... AND **GOOD**!

RIGHT NOW I WANT IT... MORE THAN ANY-THING IN THE WORLD!



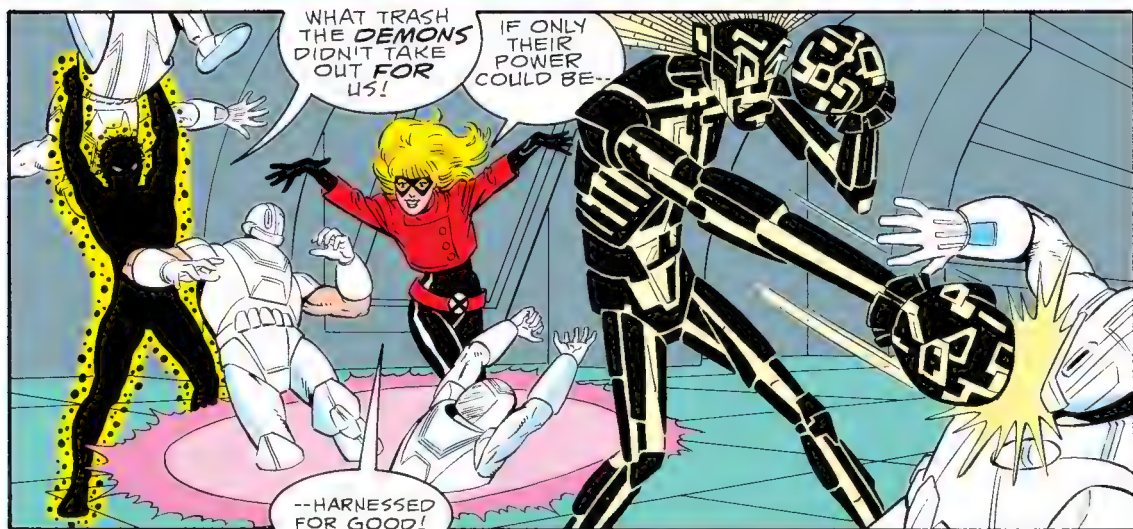
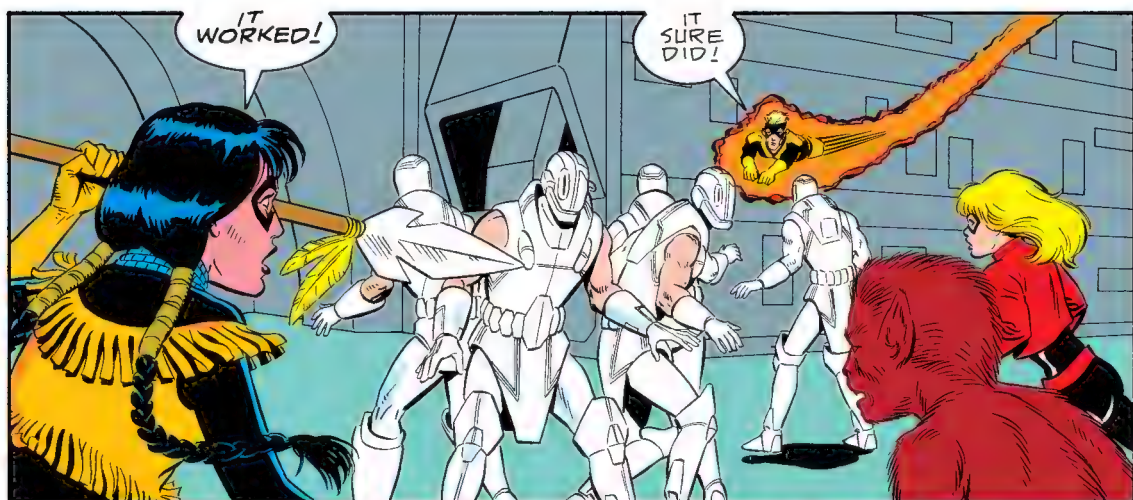
IT'S SAVED LIVES ...FOUGHT OFF DEATH **BEFORE!*** LET IT **SAVE US NOW!**

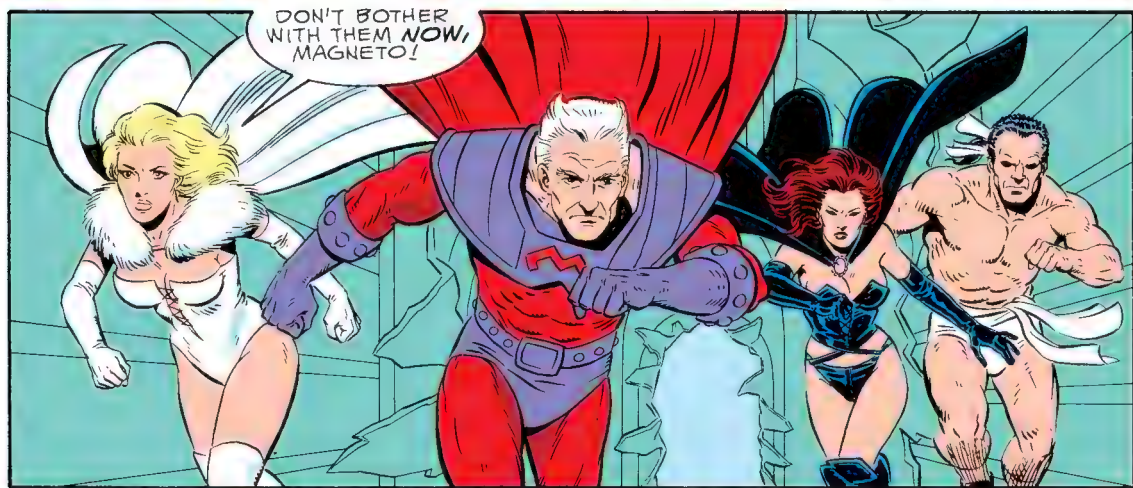
***IN NEW MUTANTS SPECIAL EDITION #1 AND POWER PACK #21.**

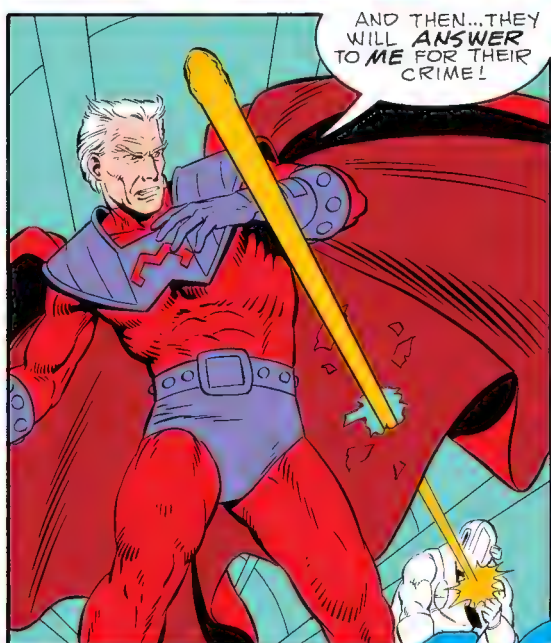
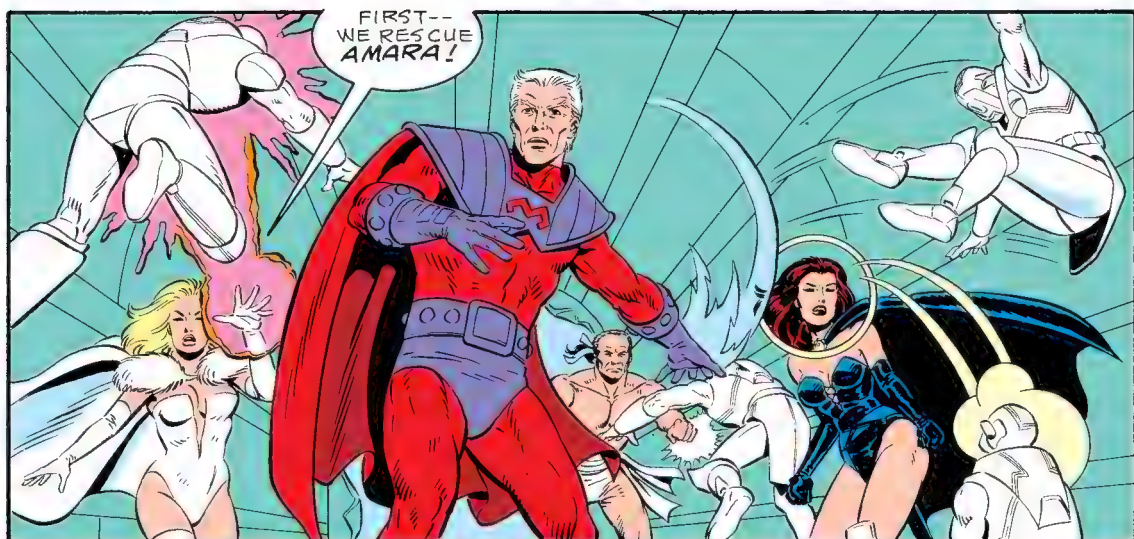
--BOB.

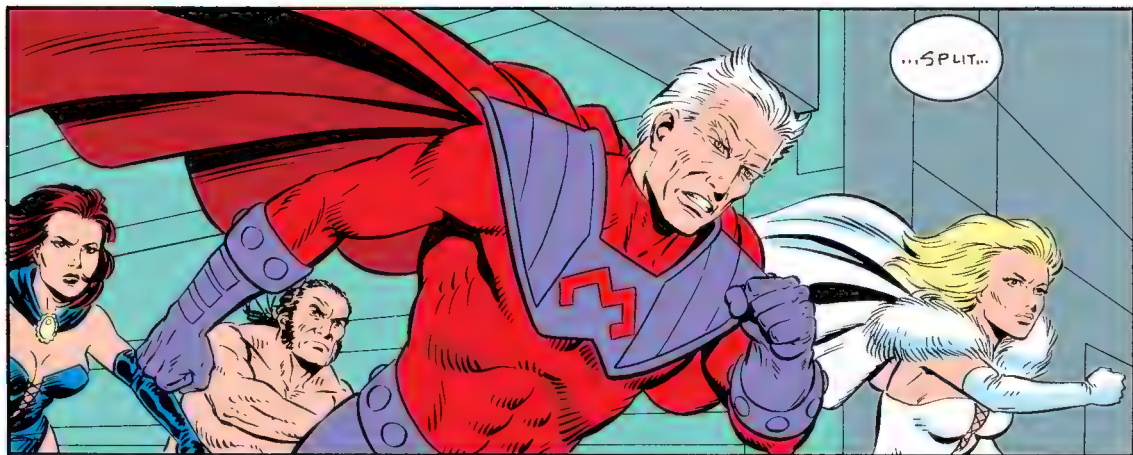
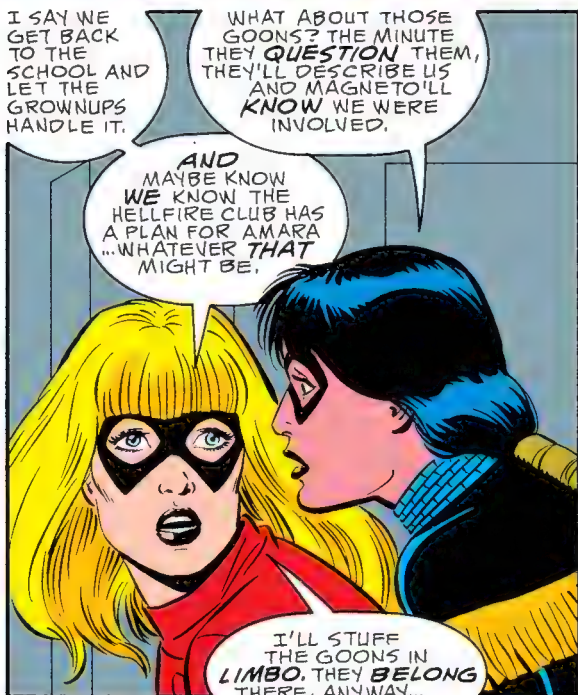
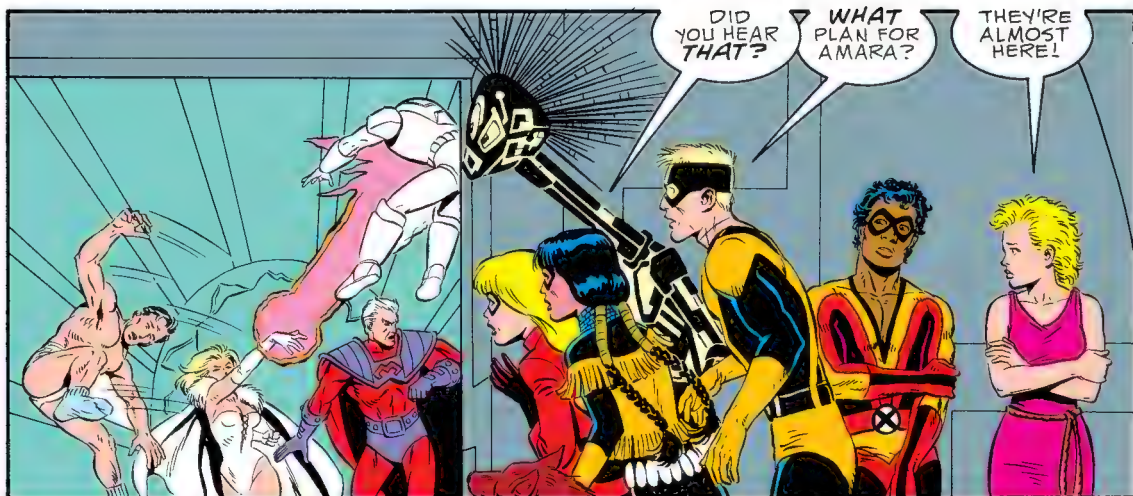


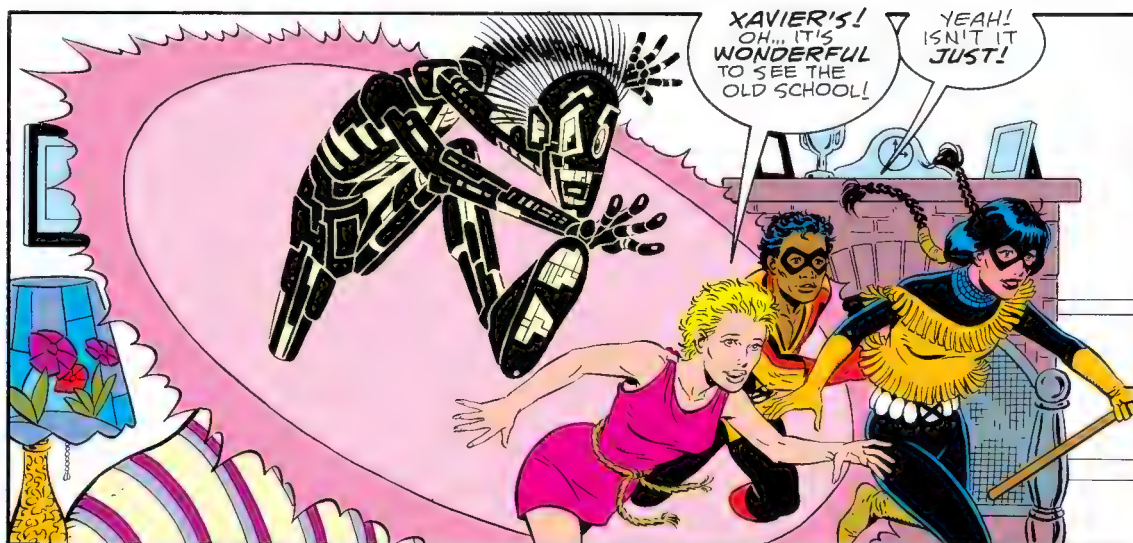
MY **SPIRIT LANCE!**

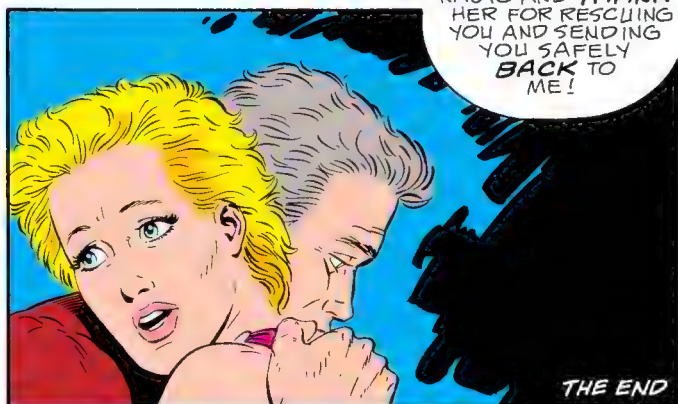
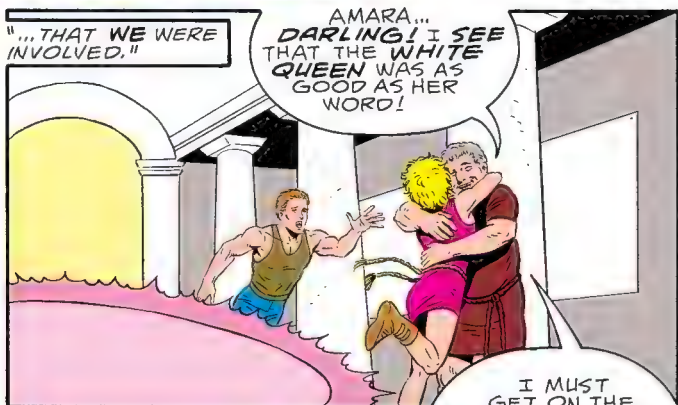
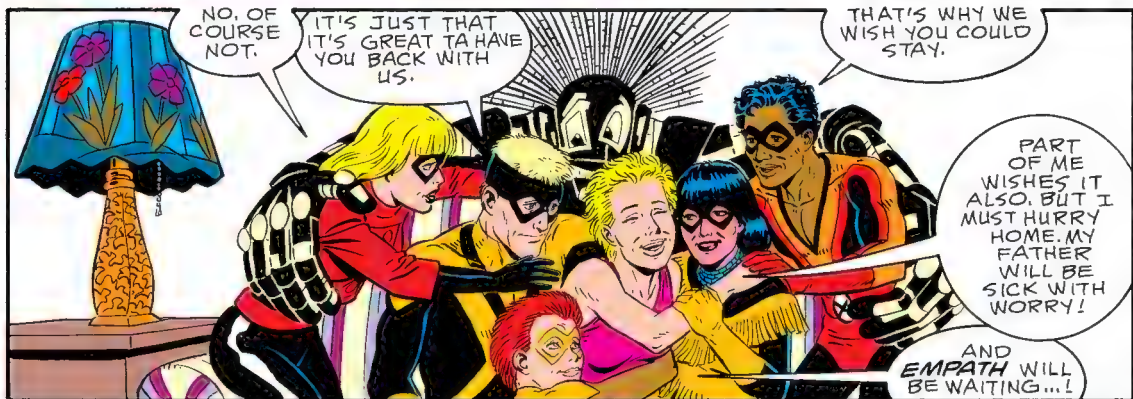
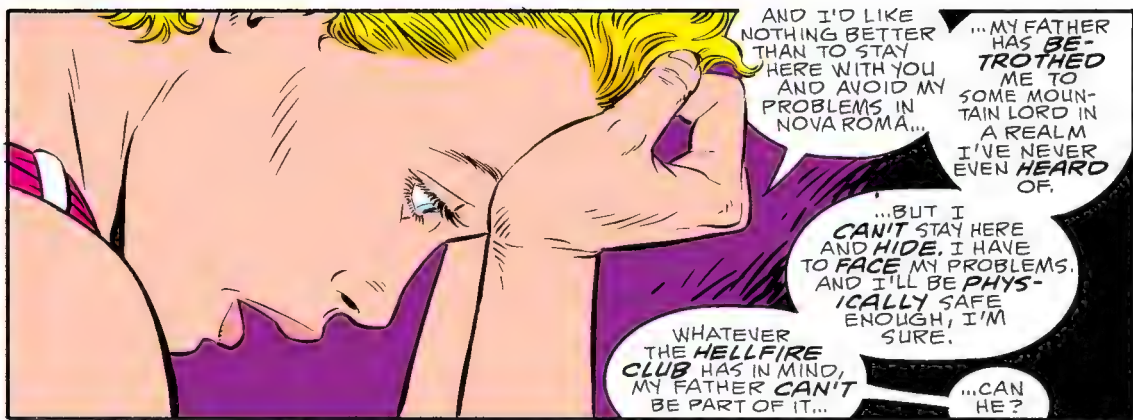














I **KNOW**
MAGNETO FORBADE
US TO LEAVE
THE GROUNDS,
BRIGHTWIND...

...THOUGH
WHY I SHOULD
WORRY AFTER WHAT
WE **NEW MUTANTS**
HAVE DONE **TODAY**,
I HAVE NO
IDEA!

YOU
UNDERSTAND,
DON'T YOU, BOY?
YOU **NEED** EXERCISE
AND I NEED TO
GET WHERE
I CAN
THINK.

BEING
GIFTED WITH
A MUTANT
MIRAGE POWER
WAS ONE
THING.

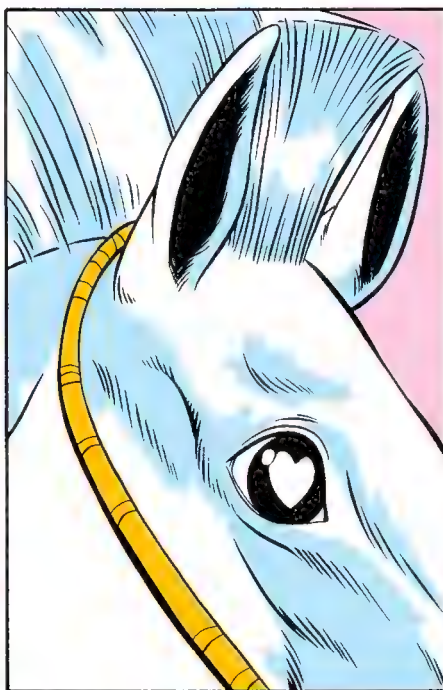
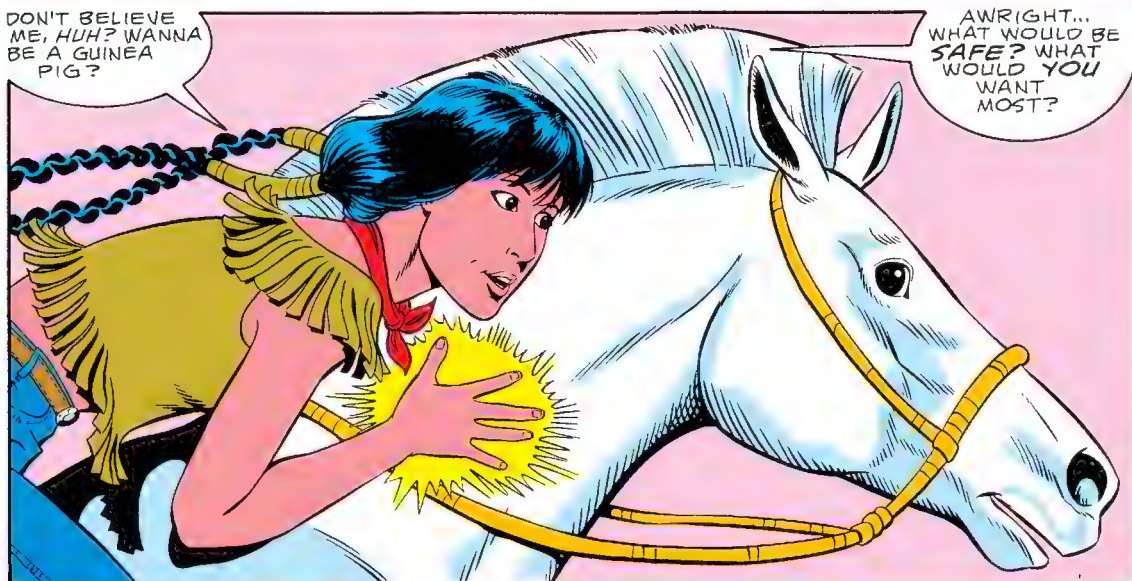
BUT THIS
NEW **EXPRESSION**
OF IT IS WEIRD. IT
ALMOST SEEMS LIKE
I HAVE THE POWER
TO MAKE WISHES
COME TRUE.

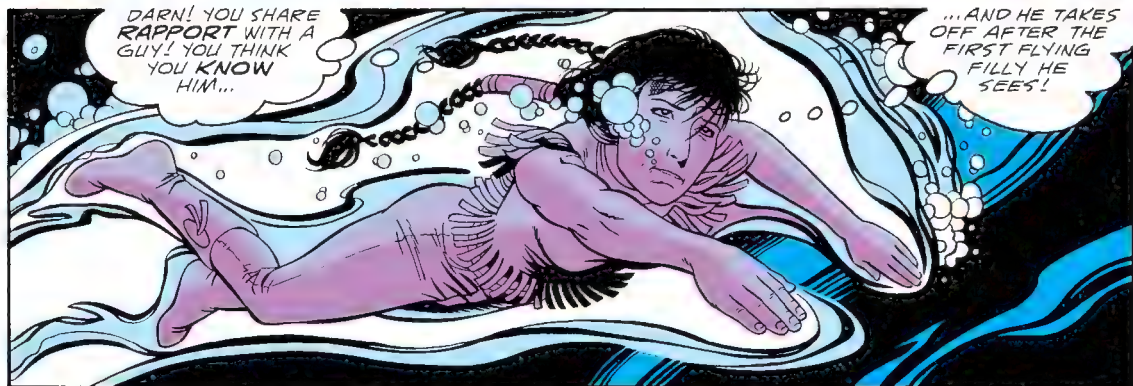
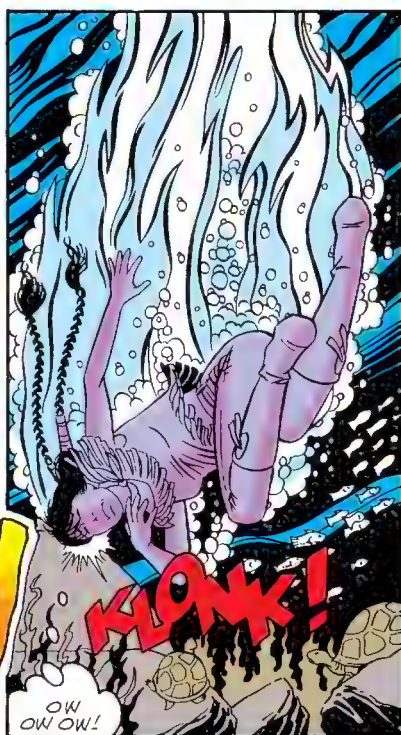
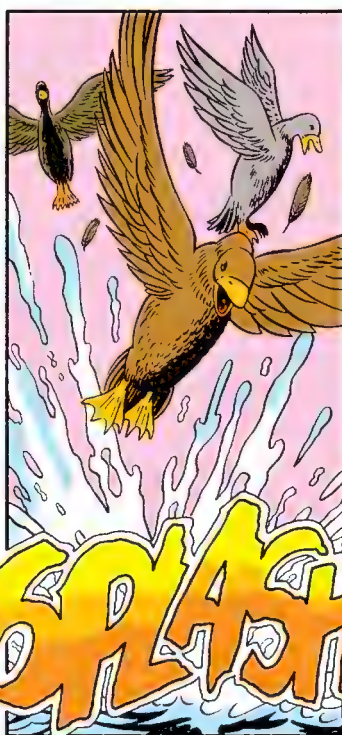
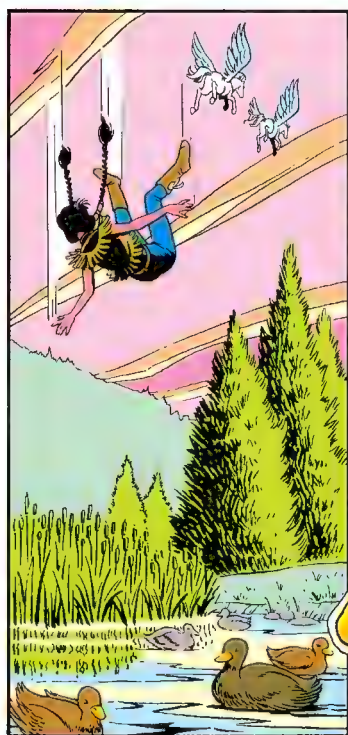
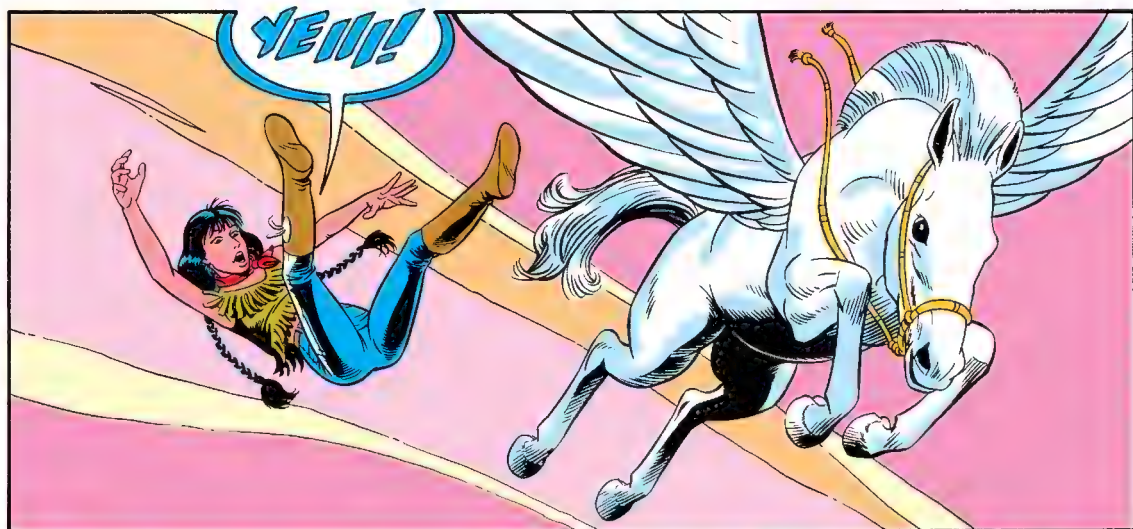
IF WISHES WERE HORSES

A
STORY
BY

LOUISE SIMONSON—WRITER JUNE BRIGMAN—PENCILER
ROY RICHARDSON—INKER JOHN E. WORKMAN, JR.—LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER—COLORIST BOB HARRAS—EDITOR

TOM
DEFALCO
EDITOR IN
CHIEF

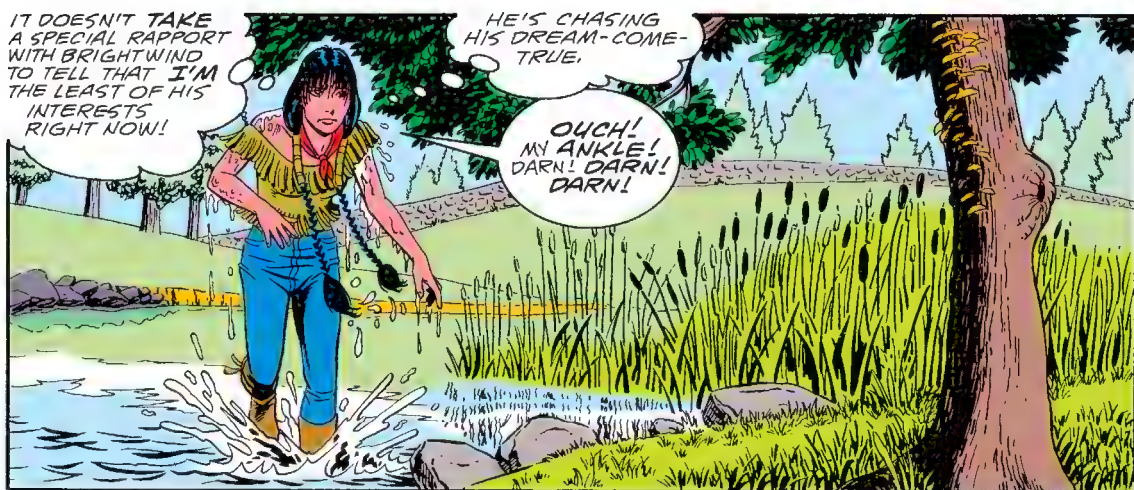




IT DOESN'T TAKE
A SPECIAL RAPPORT
WITH BRIGHTWIND
TO TELL THAT I'M
THE LEAST OF HIS
INTERESTS
RIGHT NOW!

HE'S CHASING
HIS DREAM-COME-
TRUE.

OUCH!
MY ANKLE!
DARN! DARN!
DARN!

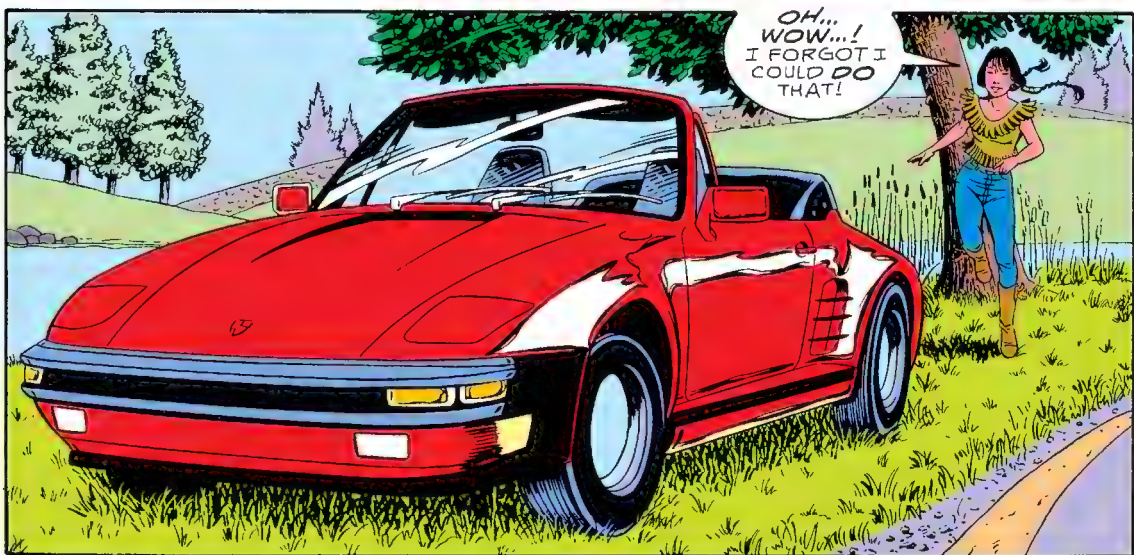
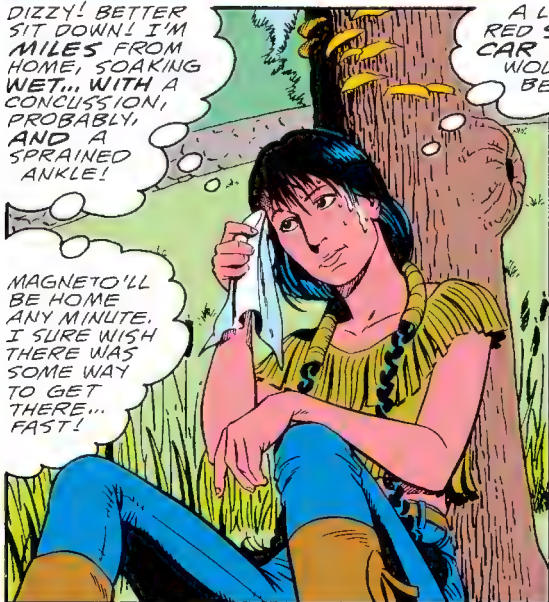


DIZZY! BETTER
SIT DOWN! I'M
MILES FROM
HOME, SOAKING
WET... WITH A
CONCUSSION,
PROBABLY,
AND A
SPRAINED
ANKLE!

A LITTLE
RED SPORTS
CAR SURE
WOULD
BE...

...NIIIIICE...!

MAGNETO'LL
BE HOME
ANY MINUTE.
I SURE WISH
THERE WAS
SOME WAY
TO GET
THERE...
FAST!



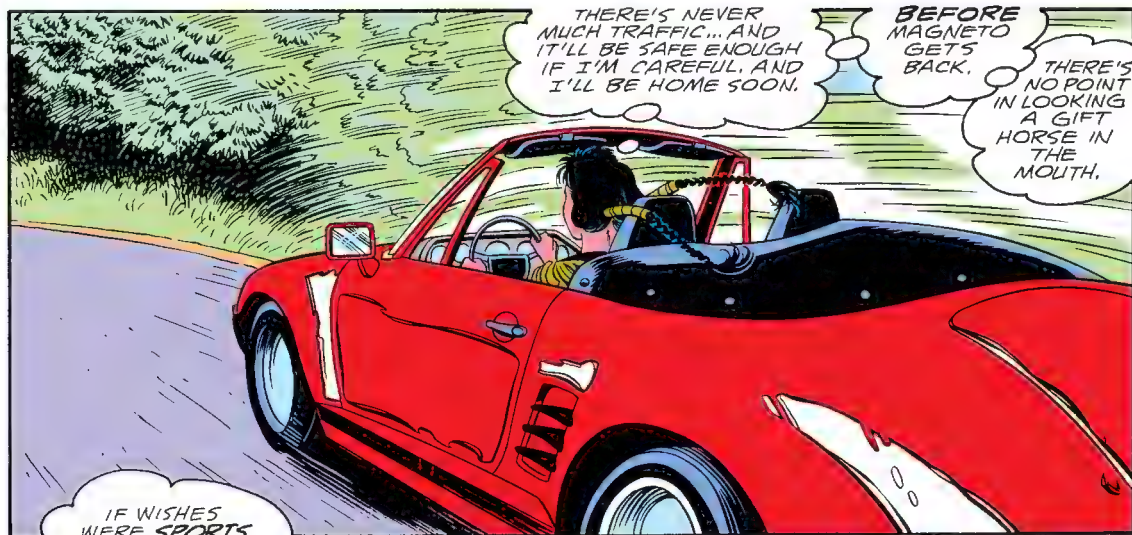
OH...
WOW...!
I FORGOT I
COULD DO
THAT!

I'M SURE
GLAD I
LEARNED
TO DRIVE
A STICK!

I WONDER
HOW BRIGHT-
WIND REACTED
WHEN HIS MARE
DISAPPEARED.
HUMPH!
SERVES HIM
RIGHT!

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A
COMPLETE WISH! A PORSCHE
-- WITH KEYS IN THE IGNITION
AND A TANK FULL
OF GAS.

STILL A LITTLE
WOOZY! I PROBABLY
SHOULDN'T EVEN BE
DRIVING, BUT I'LL
TAKE THE BACK
ROADS...



THERE'S NEVER
MUCH TRAFFIC... AND
IT'LL BE SAFE ENOUGH
IF I'M CAREFUL, AND
I'LL BE HOME SOON.

BEFORE
MAGNETO
GETS
BACK.

THERE'S
NO POINT
IN LOOKING
A GIFT
HORSE IN
THE
MOUTH.

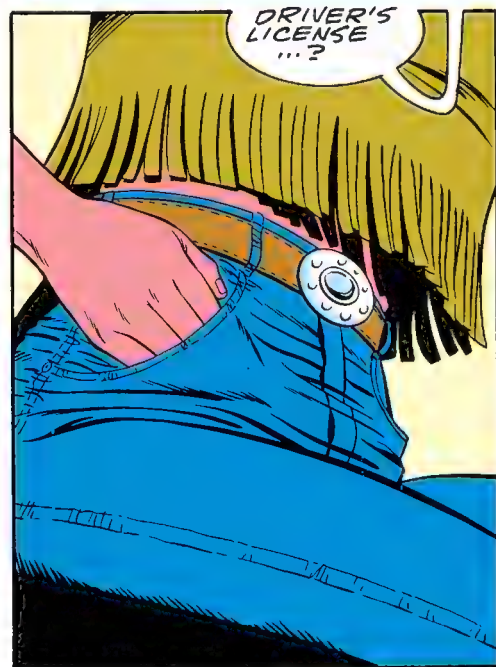
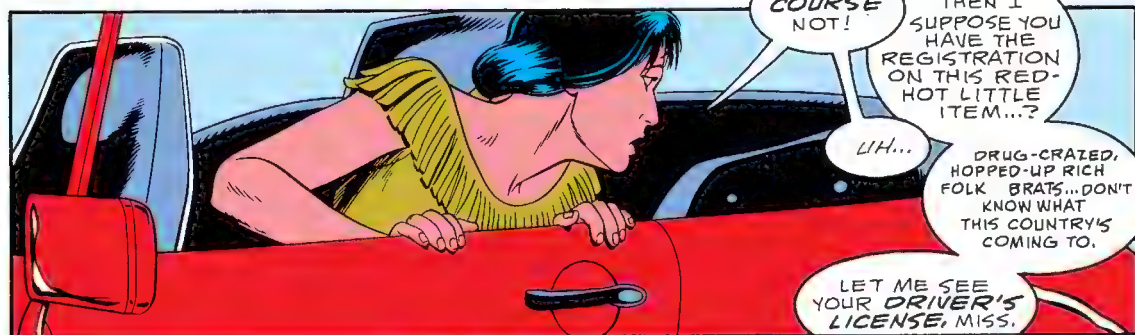
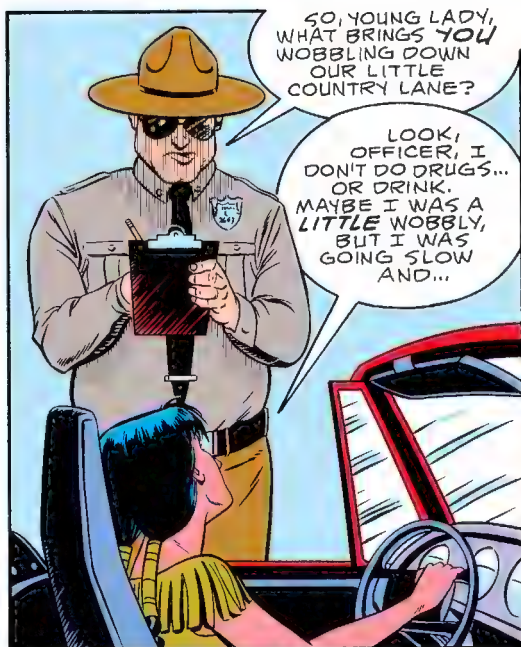
IF WISHES
WERE SPORTS
CARS, BEGGARS
WOULD
RIDE...

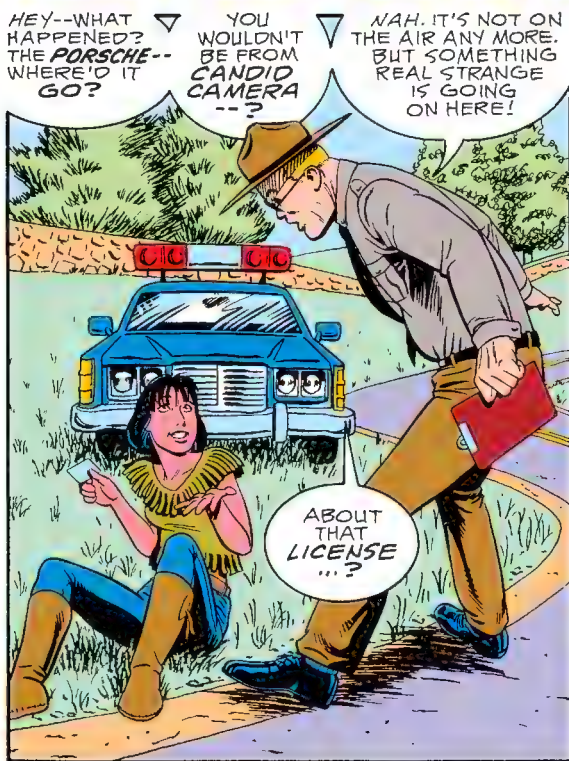
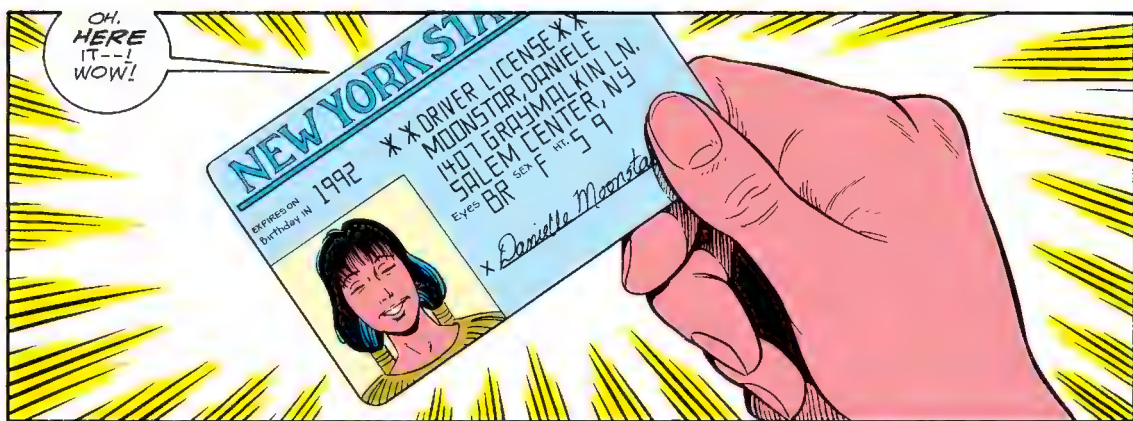
THAT'S
TERRIBLE, I
MUST HAVE
BUMPED MY
HEAD HARDER
THAN I
THOUGHT!

WEE LOOOEEEE

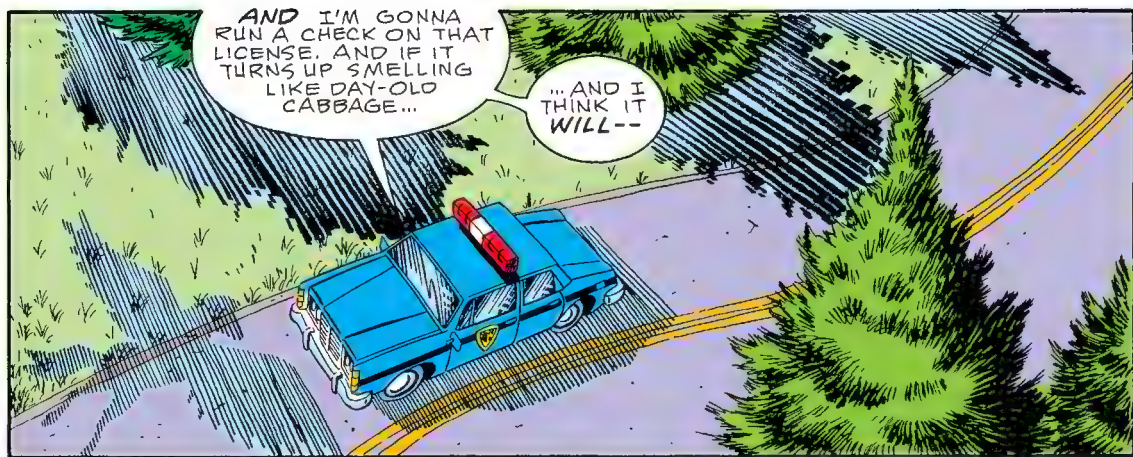
THE POLICE!
OH, NO! WAS I
SPEEDING?
NO, THEN
WHY'S HE
CHASING
ME?

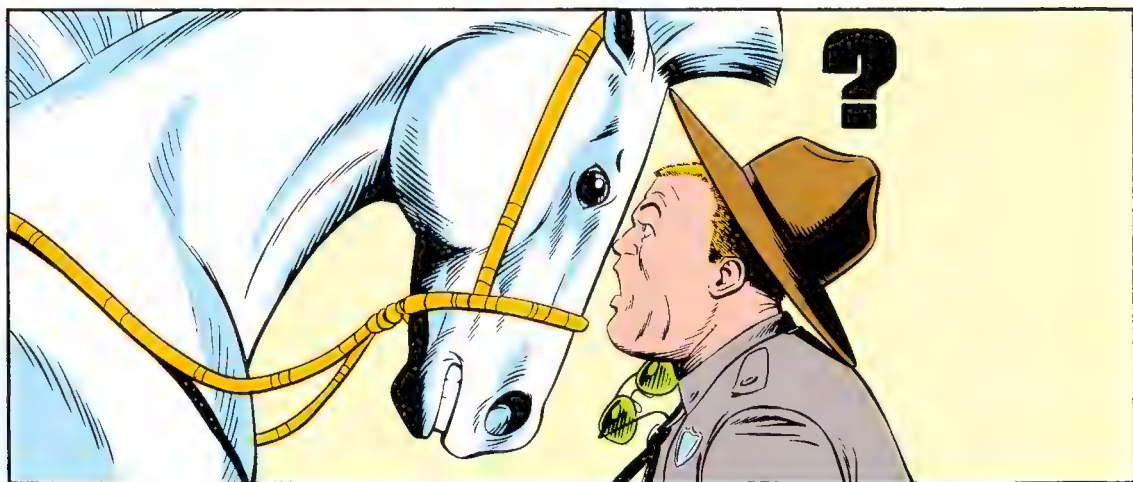
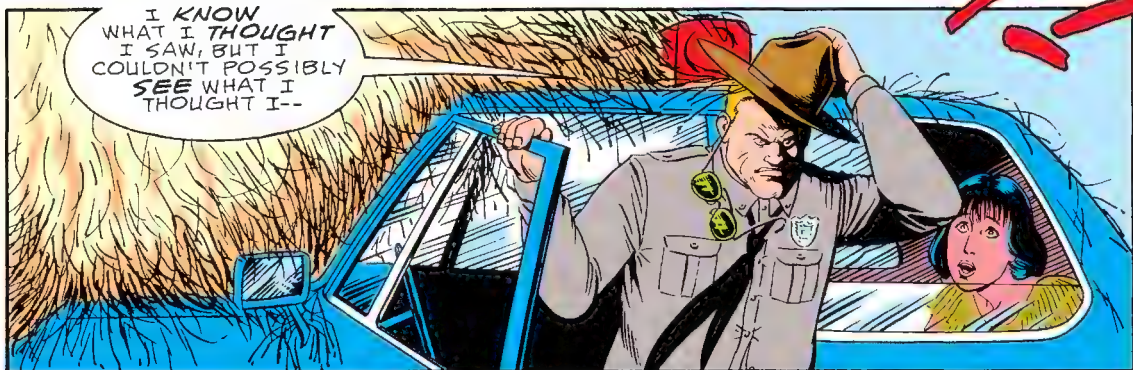
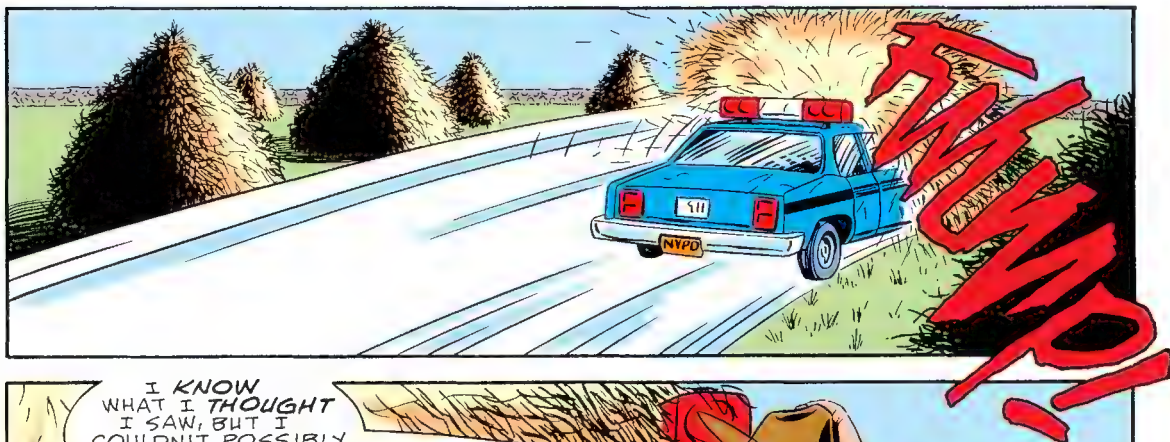
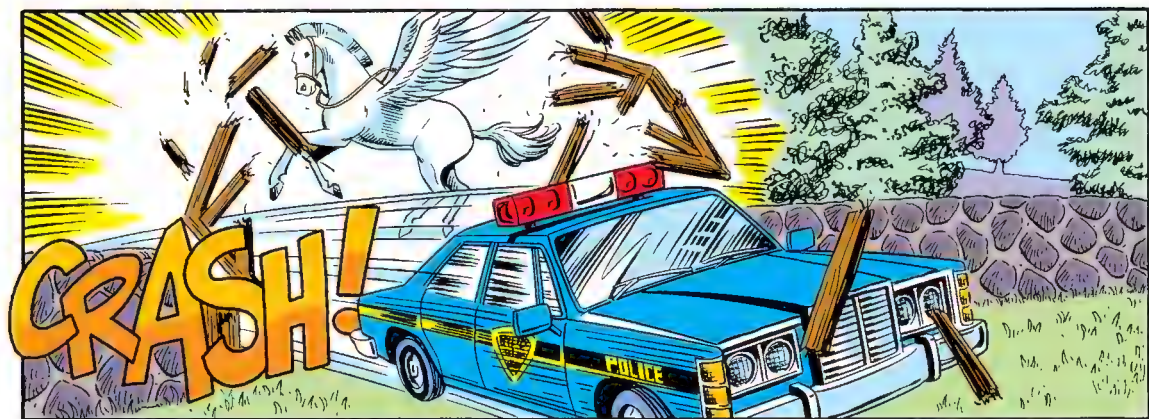


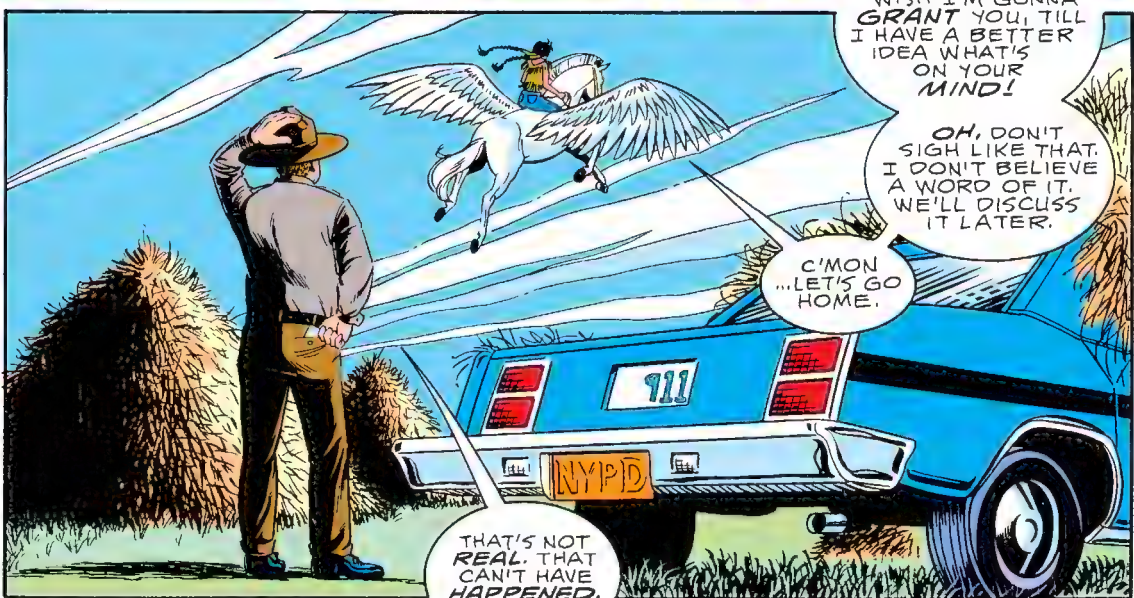
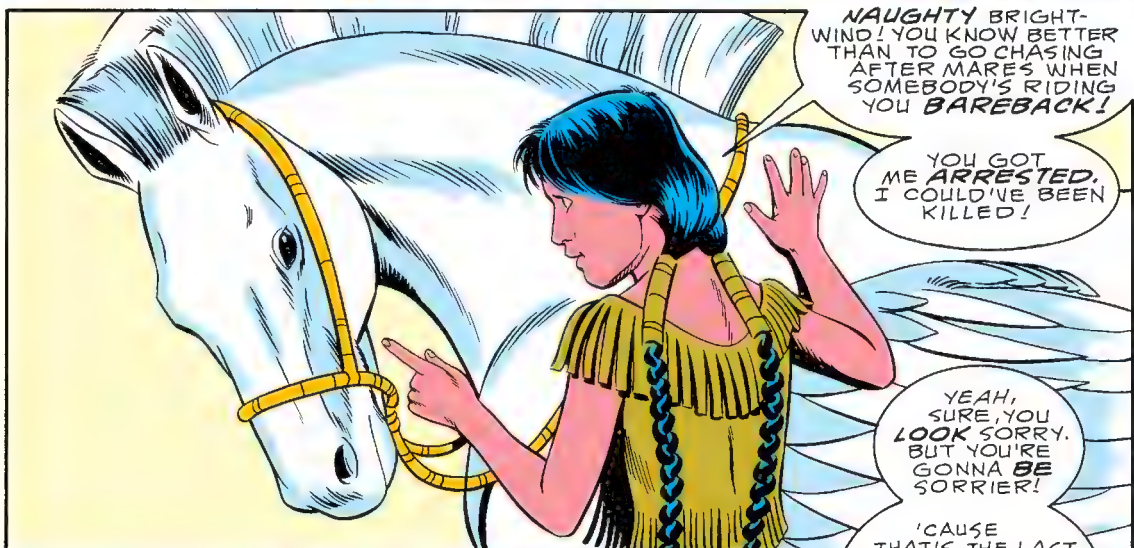
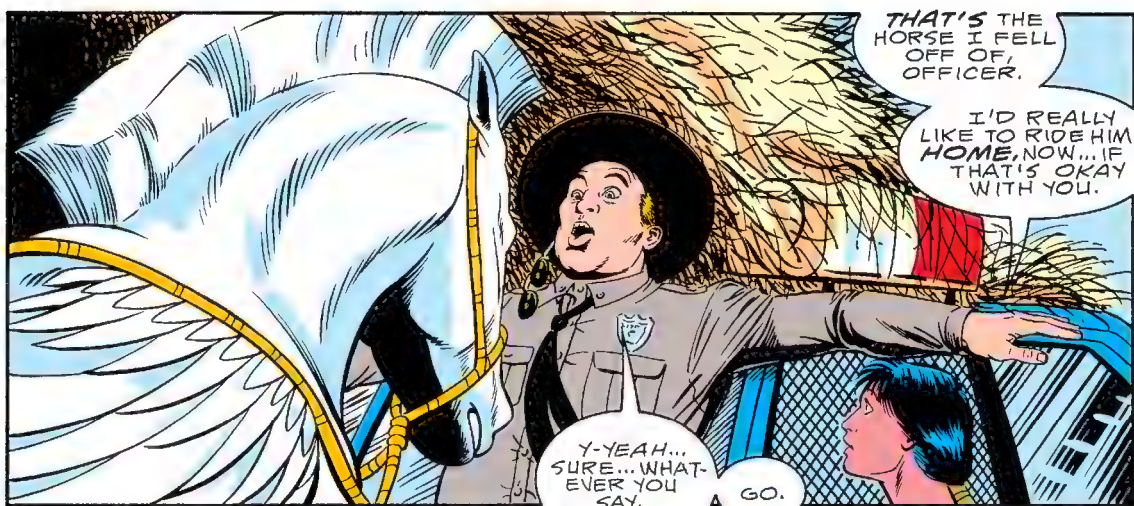














WAIT... THE
LICENSE!
I'VE GOT THE
LICENSE.

MAYBE
I CAN **TRACE**
HER THROUGH THE
PRINTS... BUT IF
SHE **IS** AN
ALIEN...

THEN I GOT
PHYSICAL
EVIDENCE.

PROVES IT
HAPPENED.

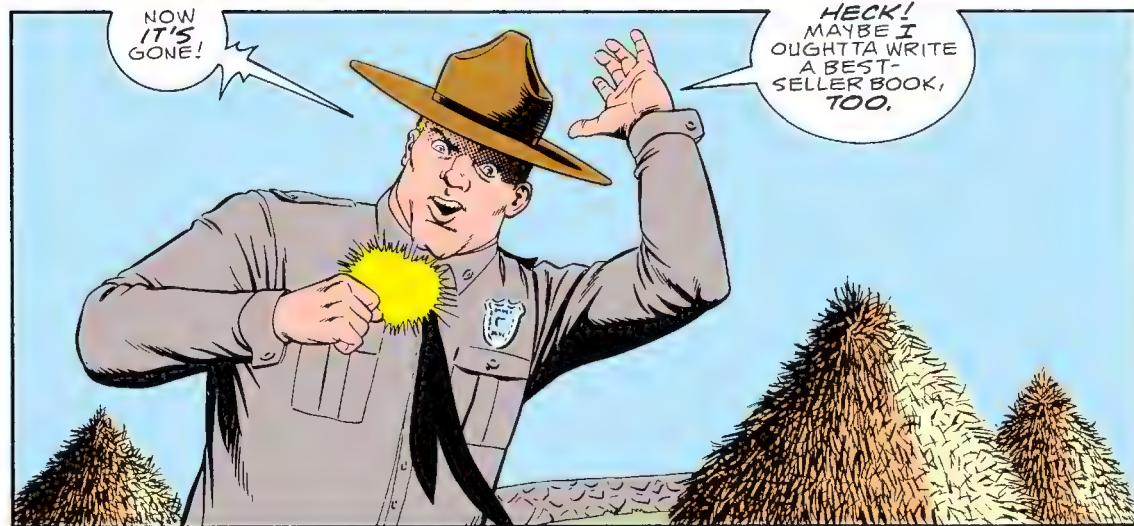


OH, NO.
BRIGHT-
WIND, I
FORGOT.
HE STILL
HAS THAT
LICENSE.

IT'S NOT
MY **REAL**
LICENSE,
BUT
STILL...

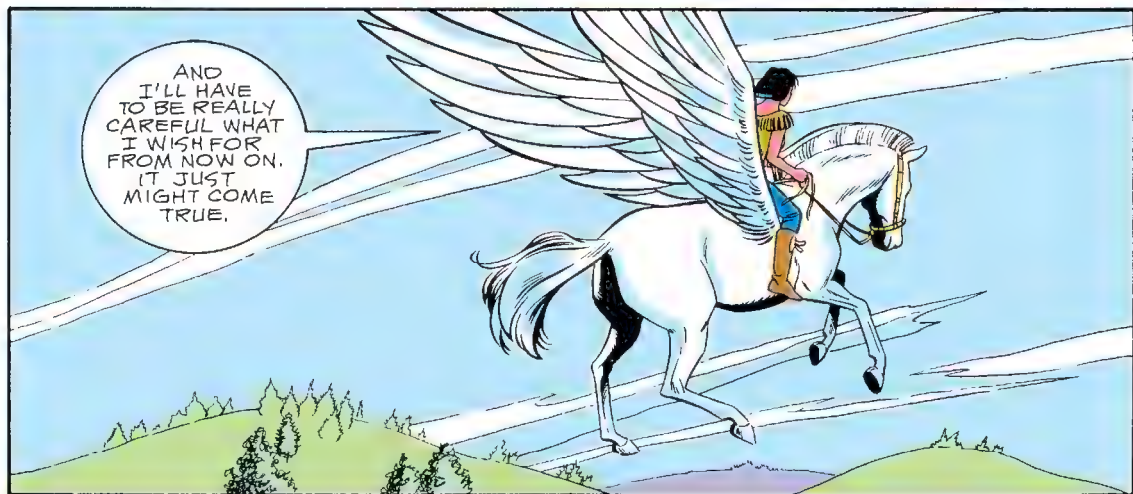


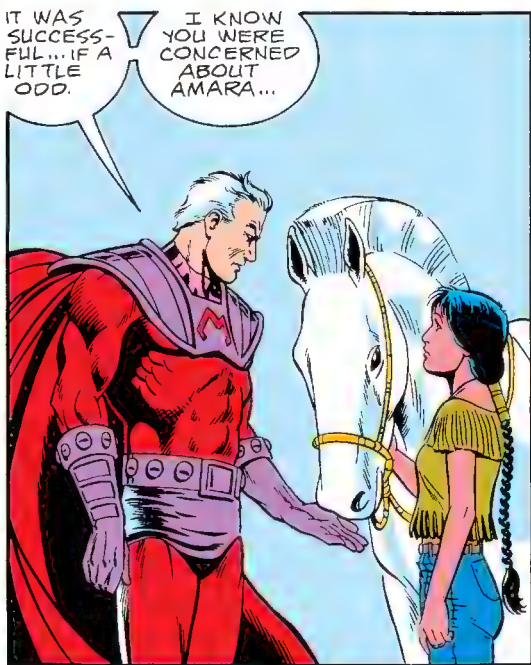
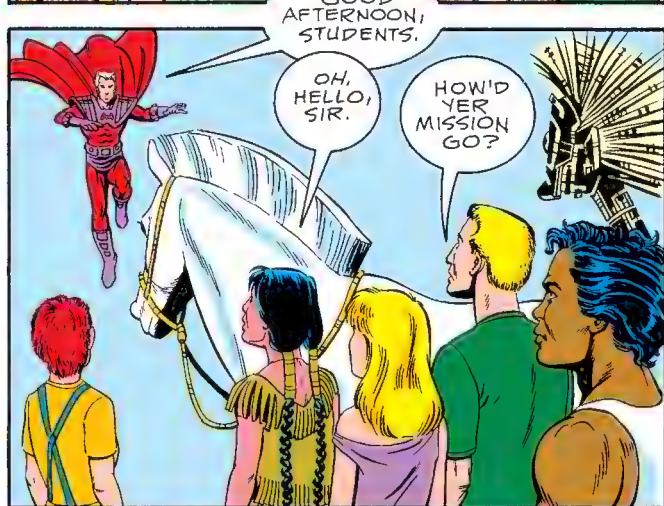
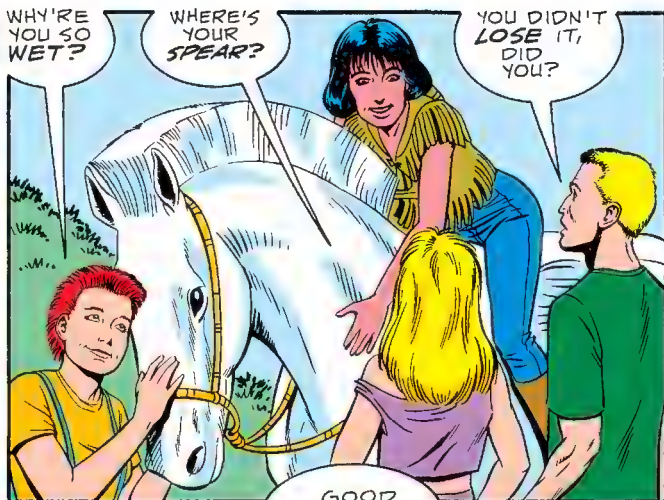
...IT SURE
WOULD BE
WONDERFUL
TO HAVE THAT
SPEAR
AGAIN.

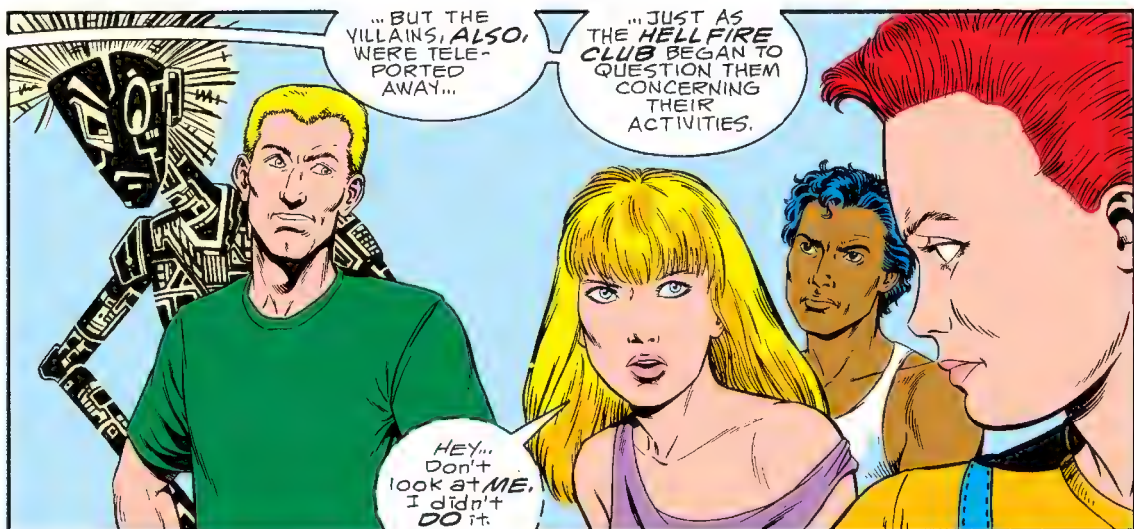


NOW
IT'S
GONE!

HECK!
MAYBE I
OUGHTTA WRITE
A BEST-
SELLER BOOK,
TOO.



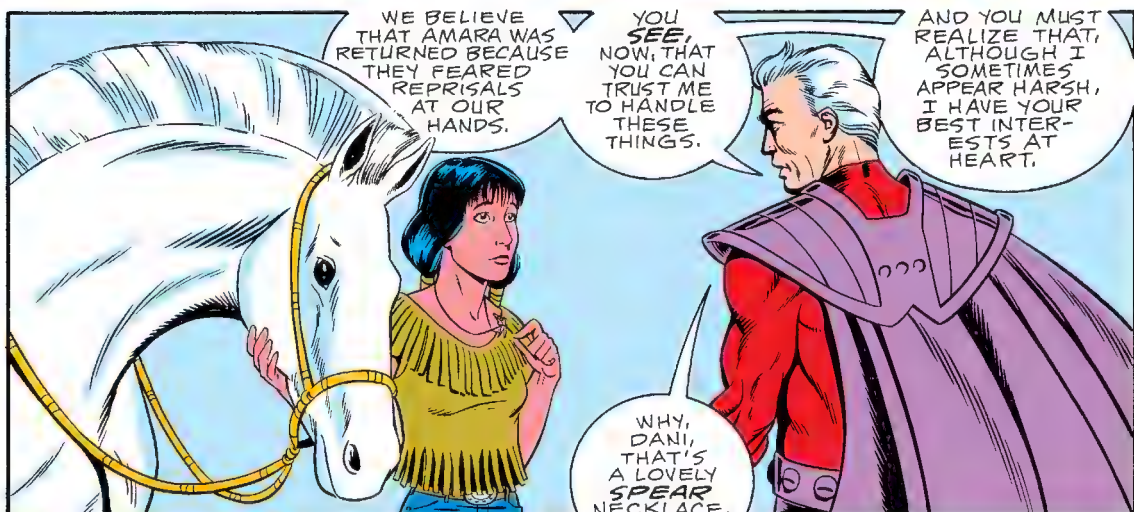




...BUT THE
VILLAINS, **ALSO**,
WERE TELE-
PORTED
AWAY...

...JUST AS
THE **HELLFIRE
CLUB** BEGAN TO
QUESTION THEM
CONCERNING
THEIR
ACTIVITIES.

HEY...
Don't
look at **ME**,
I didn't
DO it.



WE BELIEVE
THAT AMARA WAS
RETURNED BECAUSE
THEY FEARED
THEY REPRISALS
AT OUR
HANDS.

YOU
SEE,
NOW, THAT
YOU CAN
TRUST ME
TO HANDLE
THESE
THINGS.

AND YOU MUST
REALIZE THAT,
ALTHOUGH I
SOMETIMES
APPEAR HARSH,
I HAVE YOUR
BEST INTER-
ESTS AT
HEART.

WHY,
DANI,
THAT'S
A LOVELY
SPEAR
NECKLACE.



THANK
YOU, SIR.
I LIKE IT,
TOO!

IT'S A
GIFT...AND
IT'S **EXACTLY**
WHAT I
WANTED
MOST.

THE END

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY

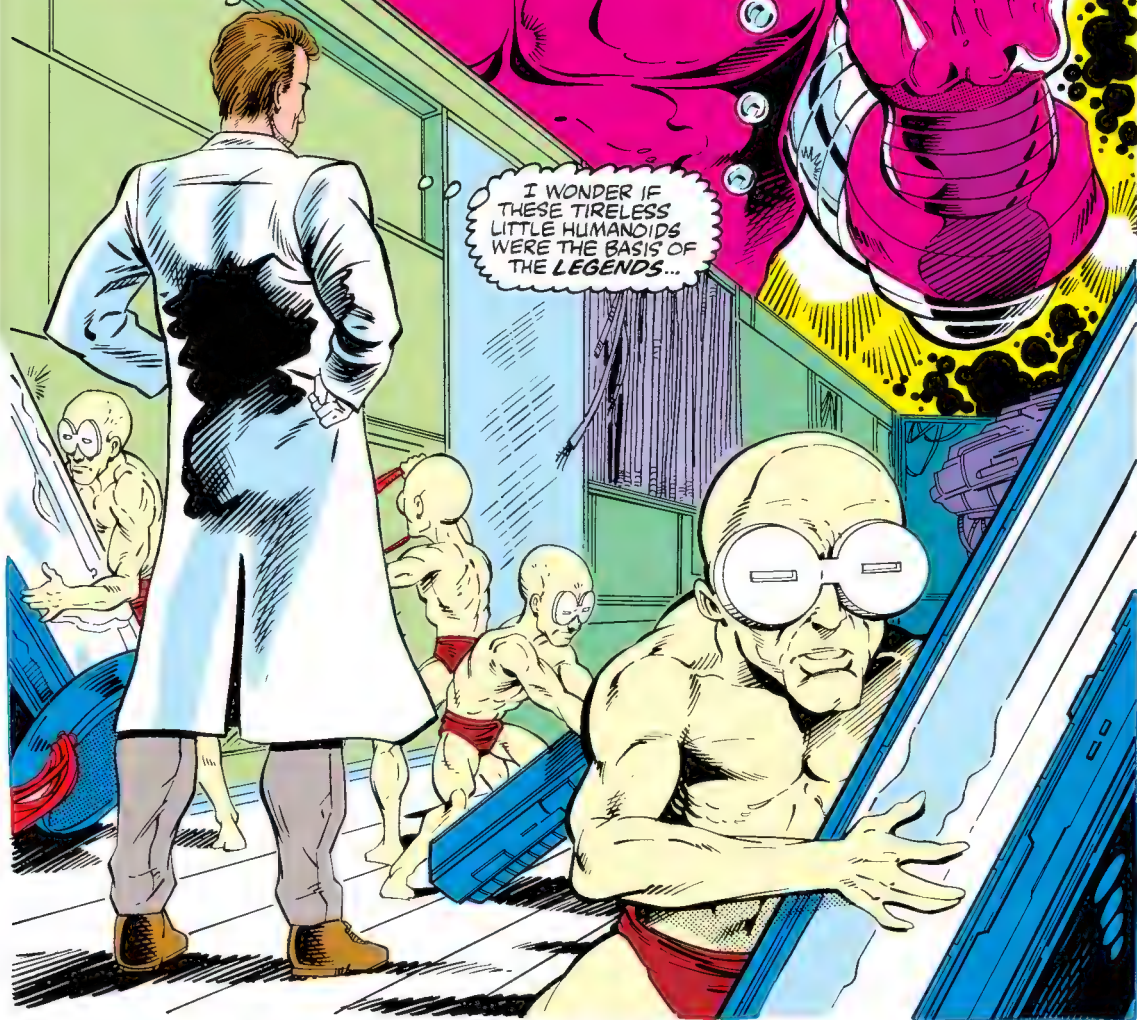
MARCH 1931. AT THE FOOT OF WINDAGORE MOUNTAIN IN THE BALKAN PRINCIPALITY OF TRANSIA, GENETICIST HERBERT EDGAR WYNDHAM SUPERVISES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MOST ADVANCED CITADEL OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH KNOWN TO MAN...

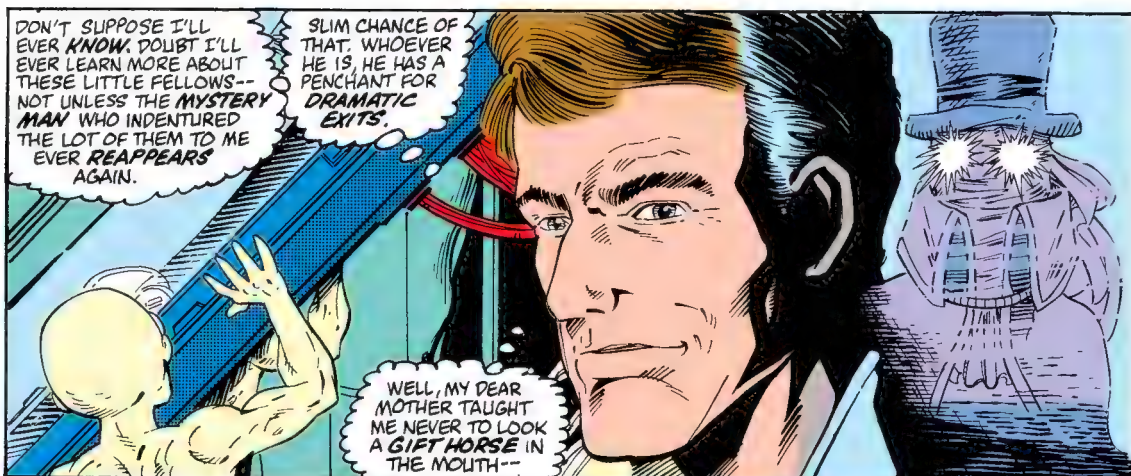
CHAPTER
FOUR:

BLOOD DRAWN, BLOOD SPILT

THIS REGION IS STEEPED IN LEGENDS OF GNOMES AND OTHER PRETERNATURAL BEINGS WHO TOIL IN SECRET BENEATH THE EARTH. AND HERE, LABORING ON BEHALF OF SCIENCE, I HAVE ALMOST A HUNDRED SUCH CREATURES...

I WONDER IF THESE TIRELESS LITTLE HUMANOIDS WERE THE BASIS OF THE LEGENDS...





DON'T SUPPOSE I'LL EVER **KNOW**. DOUBT I'LL EVER LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE LITTLE FELLOWS-- NOT UNLESS THE **MYSTERY MAN** WHO INDENTURED THE LOT OF THEM TO ME EVER **REAPPEARS** AGAIN.

SLIM CHANCE OF THAT. WHOEVER HE IS, HE HAS A PENCHANT FOR **DRAMATIC EXITS**.

WELL, MY DEAR MOTHER TAUGHT ME NEVER TO LOOK A **GIFT HORSE** IN THE MOUTH--

--FOR FEAR OF HAVING MY HAND **BITTEN OFF**! I'D BEST--

HERBERT! THERE YOU ARE. THE WAY THIS MAZE OF OURS KEEPS CHANGING EVERY DAY, I KEEP **LOSING MY WAY!**

I SEE YOU'RE PLAYING **SLAVE-DRIVER** TO THESE ODIOS LITTLE THINGS AGAIN.

SIX MONTHS AGO, WHEN THEY FIRST BEGAN HERE, I FELT STRANGE ABOUT WORKING THEM SO HARD WITHOUT **PAYING** THEM OR EVEN **FEEDING** THEM. BUT THEN I REALIZED THAT ALL THEY LIVE FOR IS TO **WORK**-- THAT SOMEONE MUST HAVE **BRED** THEM THAT WAY.

I STILL THINK WE SHOULD HAVE EMPLOYED **REAL MEN** TO BUILD OUR PROJECT. WHAT DO WE **KNOW** ABOUT THESE THINGS ANYWAY? WHAT DO THEY **EAT**? DO THEY **SLEEP**? CAN YOU EVEN TELL THEM APART?



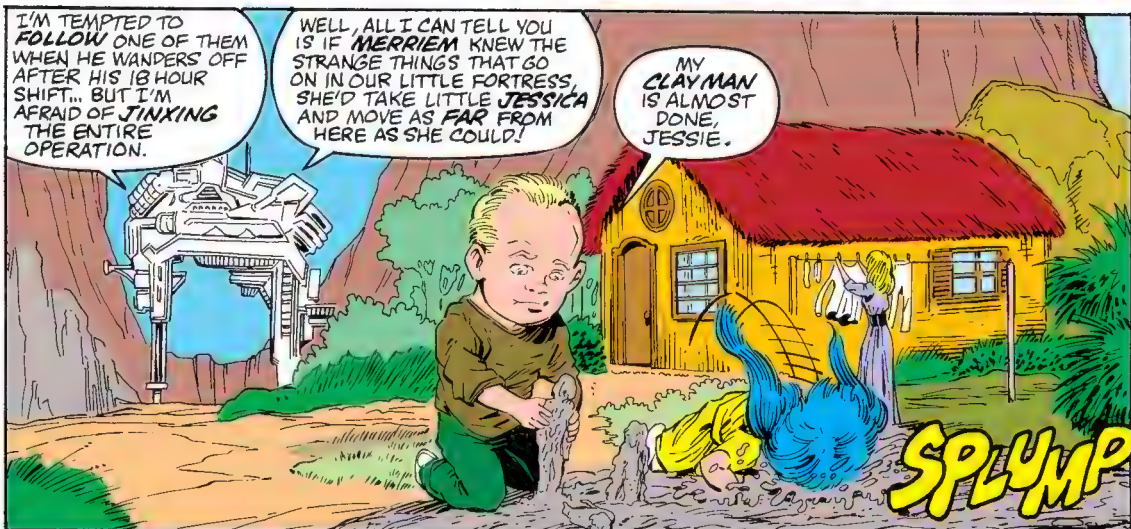
THEY **DO** REQUIRE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DIRECTION, **JONATHAN**.



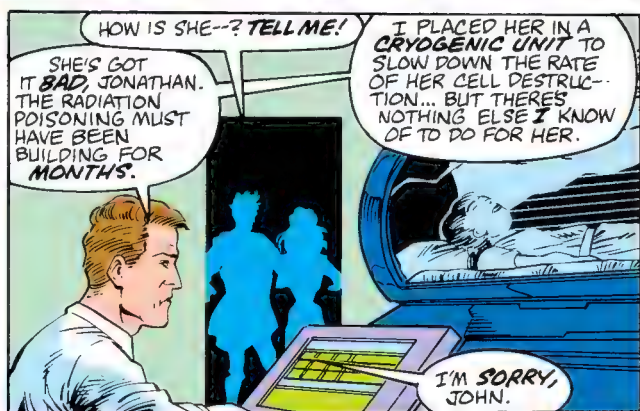
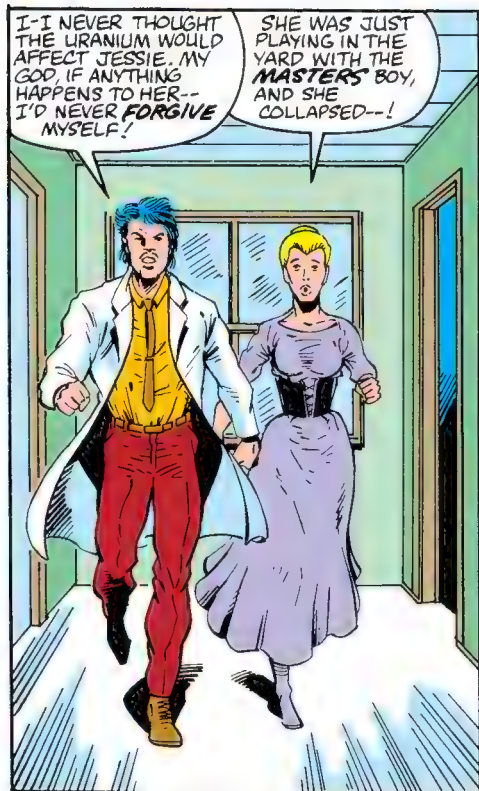
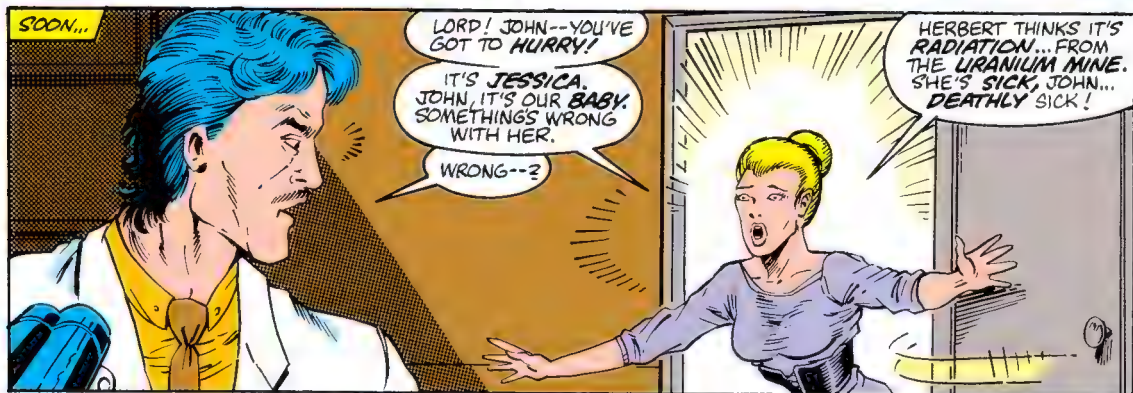
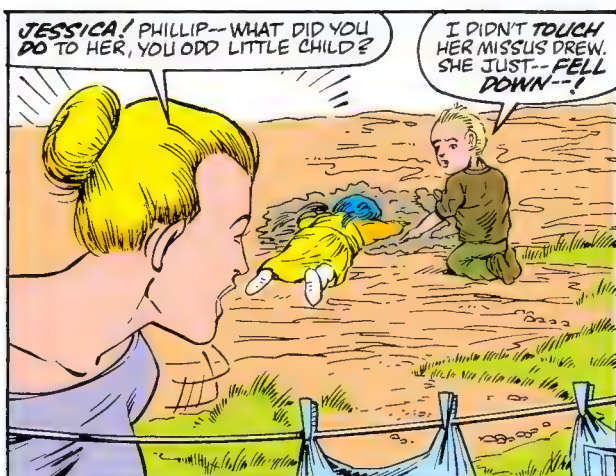
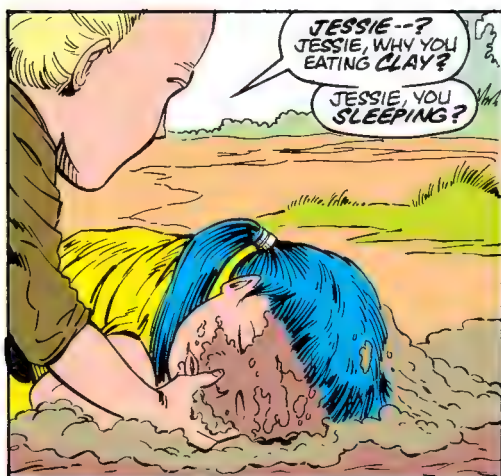
I'M TEMPTED TO **FOLLOW** ONE OF THEM WHEN HE WANDERS OFF AFTER HIS 18 HOUR SHIFT... BUT I'M AFRAID OF **JINXING** THE ENTIRE OPERATION.

WELL, ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS IF **MERRIEM** KNEW THE STRANGE THINGS THAT GO ON IN OUR LITTLE **FORTRESS**, SHE'D TAKE LITTLE **JESSICA** AND MOVE AS **FAR** FROM HERE AS SHE COULD!

MY **CLAY MAN** IS ALMOST DONE, **JESSIE**.



SPLUMP

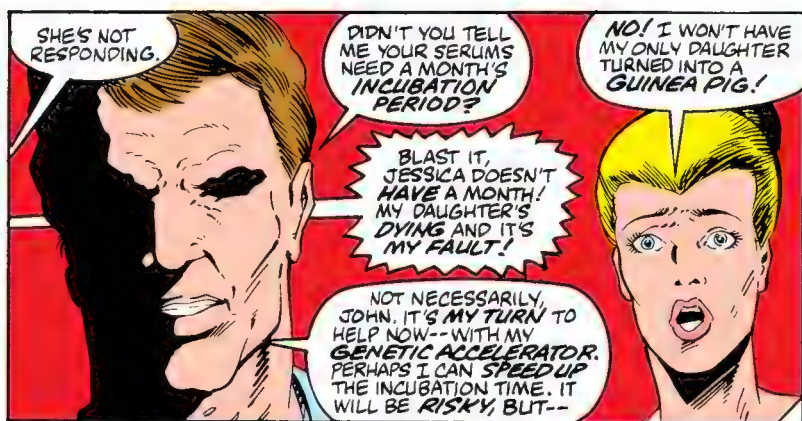




IF IT WORKS, JESSICA WILL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE RADIATION. HER BODY WILL ADAPT TO IT, EVEN AS SPIDERS' BODIES HAVE. SHE'LL LIVE!

COME ON DARLING-- REACT! YOU'VE GOT TO REACT!

ALL MY WORK, MY HOPES-- THEY'RE ALL CENTERED ON YOU!



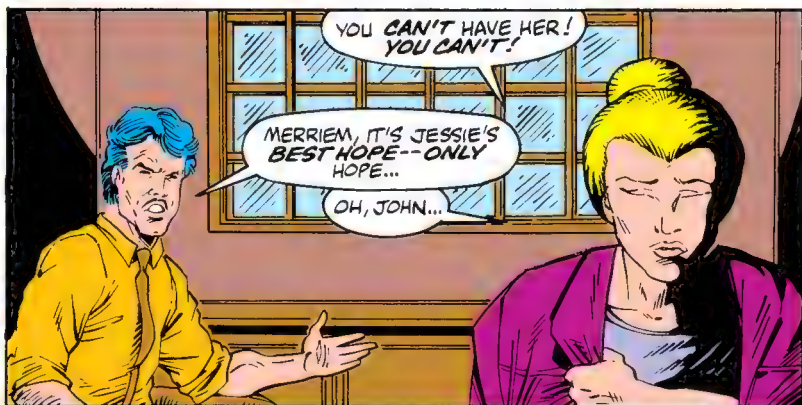
SHE'S NOT RESPONDING.

DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOUR SERUMS NEED A MONTH'S INCUBATION PERIOD?

NO! I WON'T HAVE MY ONLY DAUGHTER TURNED INTO A GUINEA PIG!

BLAST IT, JESSICA DOESN'T HAVE A MONTH! MY DAUGHTER'S DYING AND IT'S MY FAULT!

NOT NECESSARILY, JOHN. IT'S MY TURN TO HELP NOW-- WITH MY GENETIC ACCELERATOR. PERHAPS I CAN SPEED UP THE INCUBATION TIME. IT WILL BE RISKY, BUT--



YOU CAN'T HAVE HER! YOU CAN'T!

MERRIEM, IT'S JESSIE'S BEST HOPE-- ONLY HOPE...

OH, JOHN...



LATER THAT DAY, IN THE DREWS' COTTAGE...

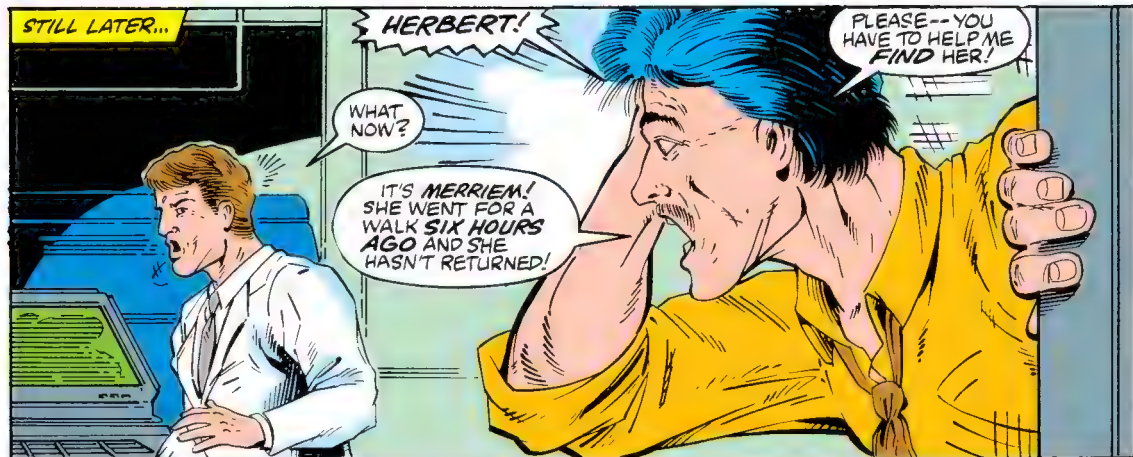
MERRIEM, PLEASE... NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE HAVE TO LEAN ON ONE ANOTHER, HOLD ONTO--

NO JOHN. IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW. YOU WERE ALWAYS MORE INTERESTED IN YOUR TEST TUBES AND MICROSCOPES AND SPECIMENS THAN YOU WERE IN YOUR DAUGHTER AND ME...

...AND NOW IT'S TOO LATE.

WHERE-- WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

A WALK. I CAN'T BEAR IT IN HERE ANYMORE-- I KEEP EXPECTING TO HEAR JESSICA'S FOOTSTEPS OR HER... LAUGHTER.



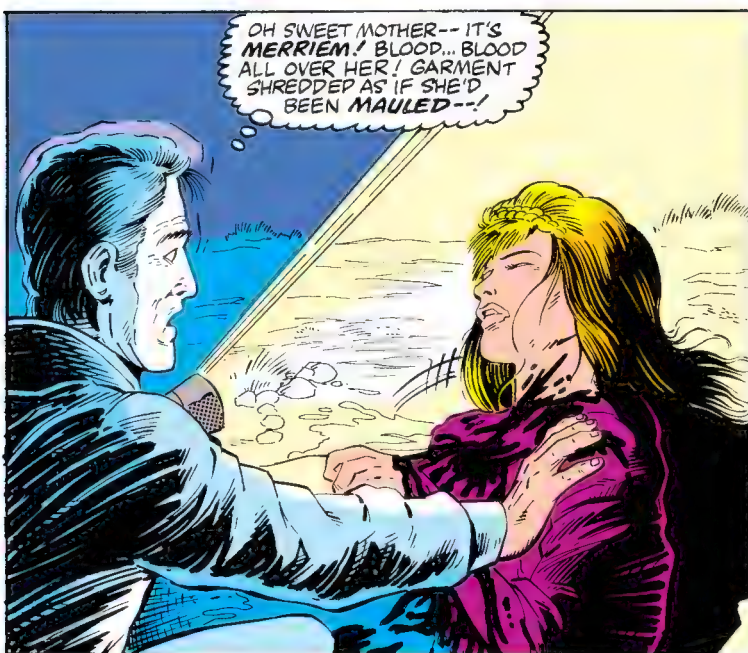
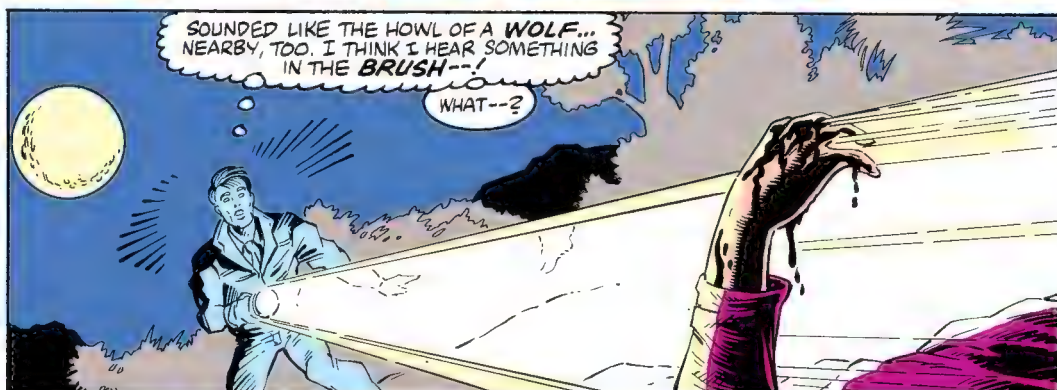
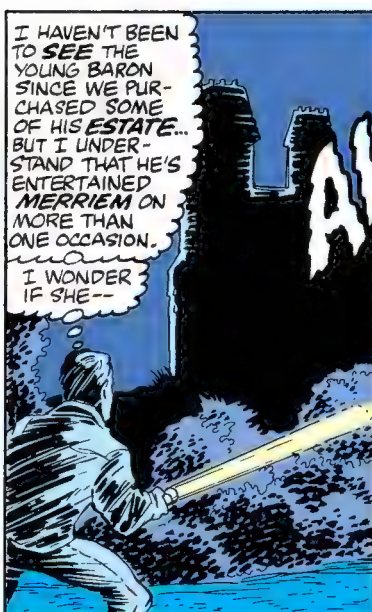
STILL LATER...

HERBERT!

WHAT NOW?

IT'S MERRIEM! SHE WENT FOR A WALK SIX HOURS AGO AND SHE HASN'T RETURNED!

PLEASE-- YOU HAVE TO HELP ME FIND HER!





WHAT MANNER
OF BEAST
COULD HAVE--



ON THAT RIDGE---IT'S
GONE NOW! BUT I
COULD HAVE *SWORN*
I SAW A MAN HOWLING
AT THE MOON!

HOW AM I GOING TO
TELL JONATHAN? BOTH
OF HIS *LOVED ONES*--
IN ONE DAY---



JUST BEFORE SUNRISE...

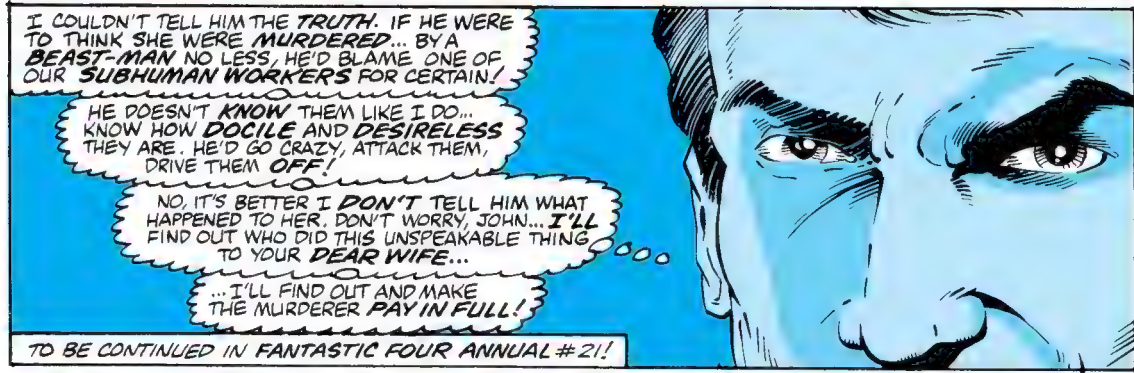
... HOW I FOUND HER, JOHN, AT
THE BOTTOM OF THE MOUNTAIN.

MERRIEM! GOD NO!
MERRRIEMM!



SHE MUST HAVE BEEN VERY *DISTRAUGHT*,
JOHN, STUMBLED OFF THE MOUNTAIN
PATH, GOT CAUGHT IN THE *BRAMBLE*...

NO... NO...
NO... NO...



I COULDN'T TELL HIM THE *TRUTH*. IF HE WERE
TO THINK SHE WERE *MURDERED*... BY A
BEAST-MAN NO LESS, HE'D BLAME ONE OF
OUR *SUBHUMAN WORKERS* FOR CERTAIN!

HE DOESN'T *KNOW* THEM LIKE I DO...
KNOW HOW *DOCILE* AND *DESIRELESS*
THEY ARE. HE'D GO CRAZY, ATTACK THEM,
DRIVE THEM *OFF*!

NO, IT'S BETTER I *DON'T* TELL HIM WHAT
HAPPENED TO HER. DON'T WORRY, JOHN... I'LL
FIND OUT WHO DID THIS UNSPEAKABLE THING
TO YOUR *DEAR WIFE*...

... I'LL FIND OUT AND MAKE
THE *MURDERER PAY IN FULL*!

TO BE CONTINUED IN FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #21!

MARK GRUENWALD STORY	RON L'IM PENCILS	JIM SINCLAIR INKS	GREGORY WRIGHT COLORS	KEN LOPEZ LETTERS	RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR	TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF
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THE

X-MEN

64
PAGES

THE EVOLUTIONARY WAR™



STAN LEE
PRESENTS

RESURRECTION!!

WIND
HOWLS

THUNDER
BOOMS.

LIGHTNING
SPLITS THE SKY--

AN
ADVENTURE
OF THE
UNCANNY
X-MEN
BY

CHRIS
CLAREMONT
WRITER

ART
ADAMS
PENCILER

BOB
WIACEK
INKER

GLYNIS OLIVER, colorist

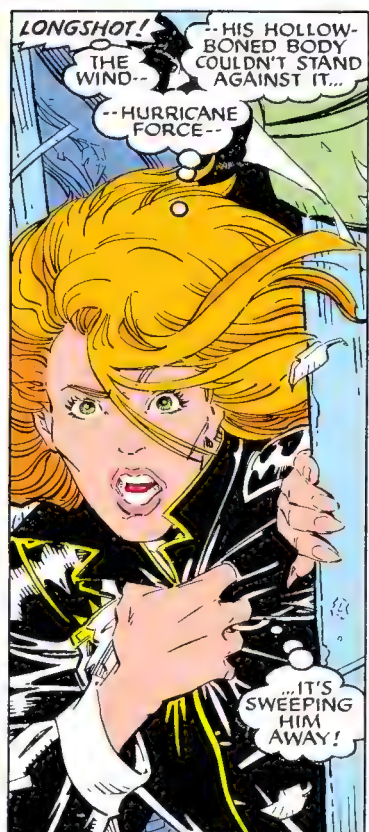
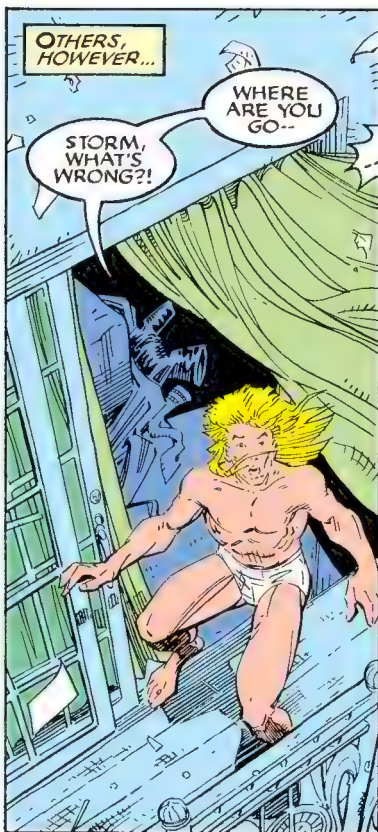
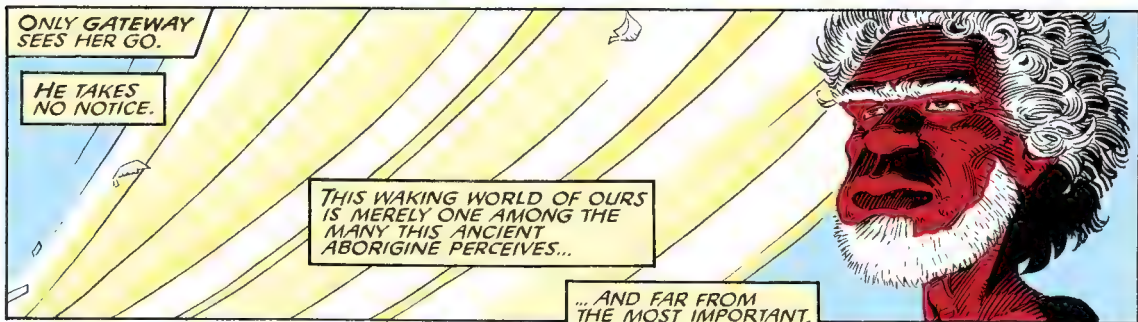
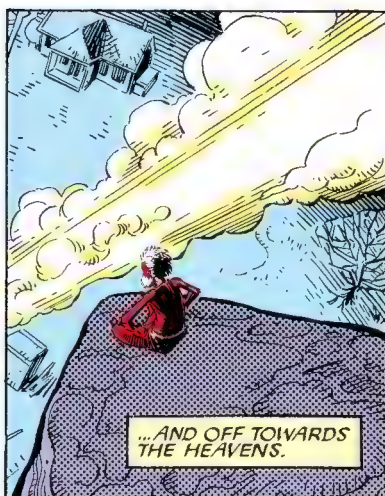
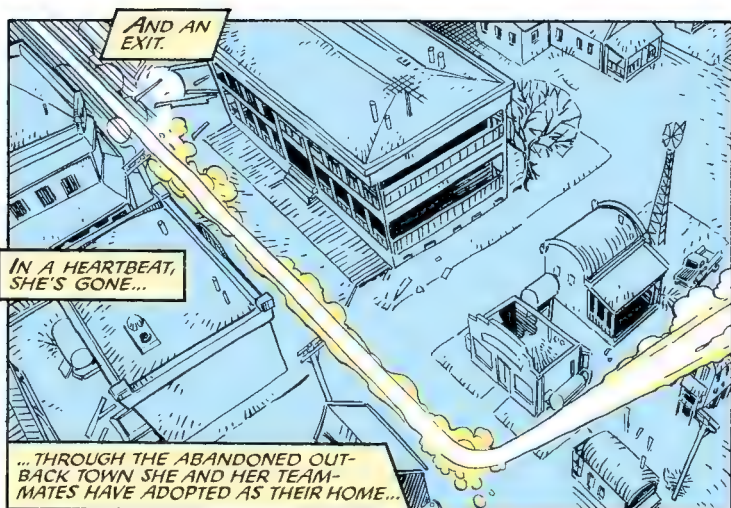
TOM ORZECOWSKI, letterer

BOB HARRAS, editor

TOM DeFALCO, chief

--STROBE-SPLASHING
MIDNIGHT BRIGHTER
THAN NOON.

STORM'S AN
X-MAN WHO
KNOWS HOW
TO MAKE AN
ENTRANCE.

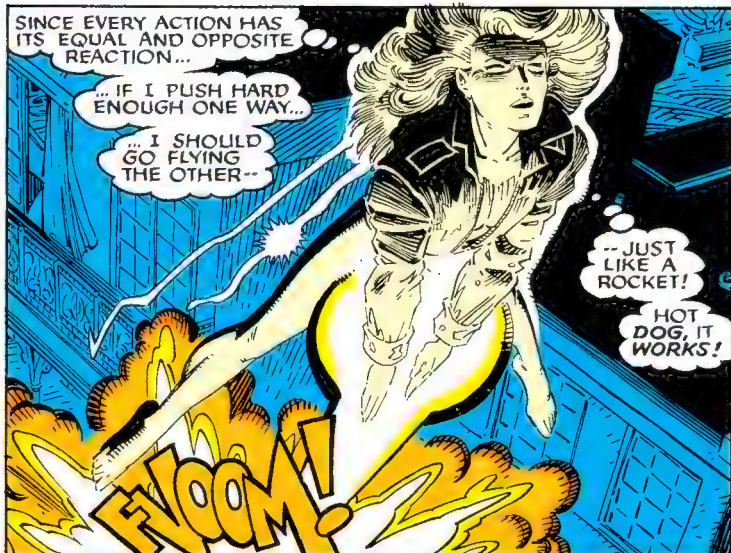




...READY! EVEN HIS INCREDIBLE
TOO HIGH. MUTANT LUCK WON'T
SAVE HIM FROM THAT FALL.

SO HOW DO I
SAVE HIM?

MY
PHOTON
BEAM
PROJECTS
"SOLID"
LIGHT AS
FORCE.



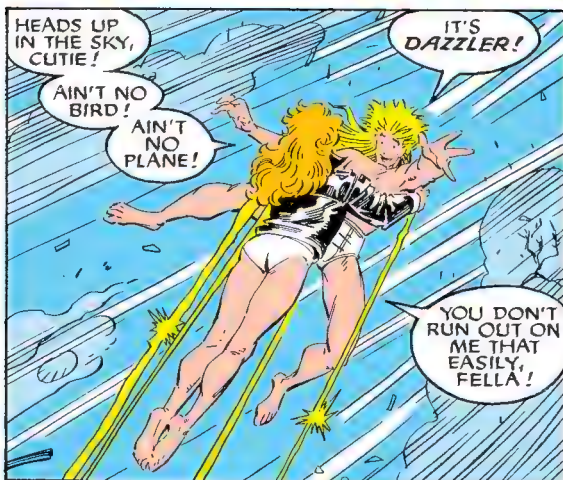
SINCE EVERY ACTION HAS
ITS EQUAL AND OPPOSITE
REACTION...

... IF I PUSH HARD
ENOUGH ONE WAY...

... I SHOULD
GO FLYING
THE OTHER--

-- JUST LIKE A
ROCKET!

HOT
DOG, IT
WORKS!



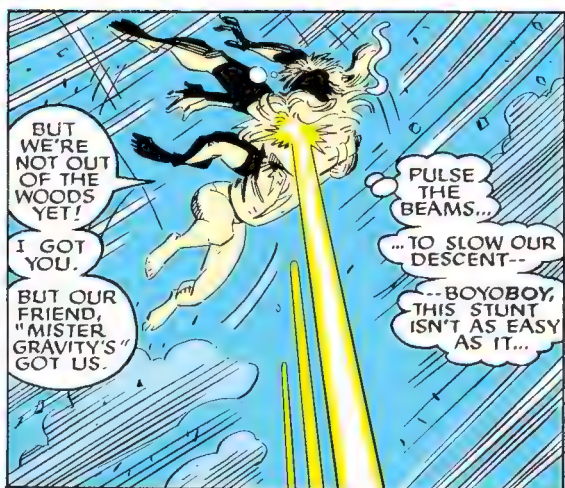
HEADS UP IN
THE SKY,
CUTIE!

AIN'T NO
BIRD!

AIN'T NO
PLANE!

IT'S
DAZZLER!

YOU DON'T
RUN OUT ON
ME THAT
EASILY,
FELLA!



BUT
WE'RE
NOT OUT
OF THE
WOODS
YET!

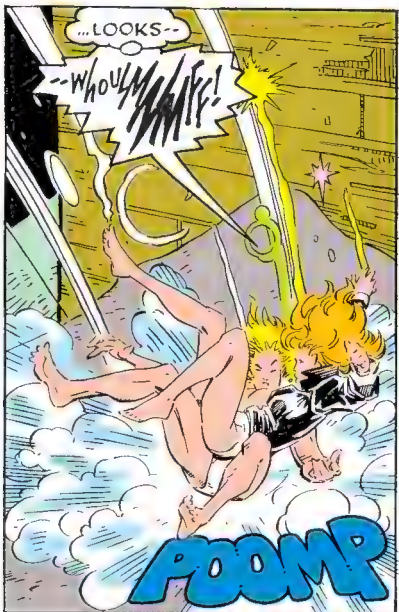
I GOT
YOU.

BUT OUR
FRIEND,
"MISTER
GRAVITY'S"
GOT US.

PULSE
THE
BEAMS...

...TO SLOW OUR
DESCENT--

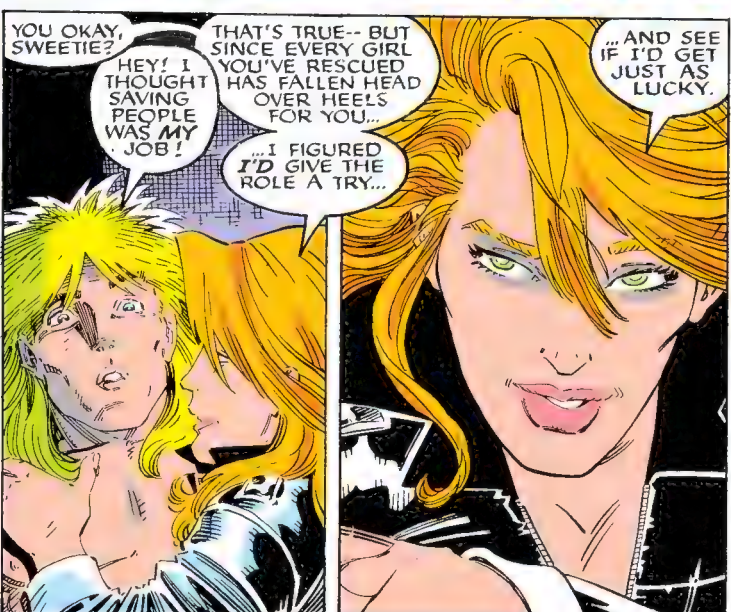
...BOYBOY,
THIS STUNT
ISN'T AS EASY
AS IT...



...LOOKS--

--WOULDN'T
IT?

POOMP



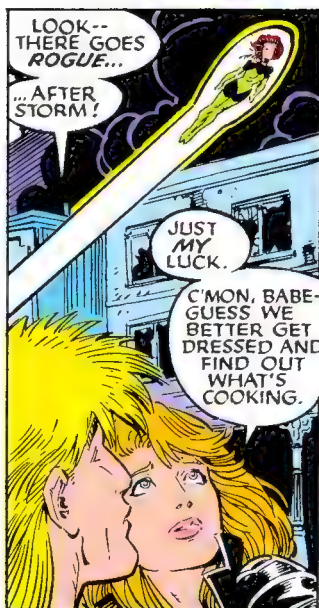
YOU OKAY,
SWEETIE?

HEY! I
THOUGHT
SAVING
PEOPLE
WAS MY
JOB!

THAT'S TRUE-- BUT
SINCE EVERY GIRL
YOU'VE RESCUED
HAS FALLEN HEAD
OVER HEELS
FOR YOU...

...I FIGURED
I'D GIVE THE
ROLE A TRY...

...AND SEE
IF I'D GET
JUST AS
LUCKY.



LOOK--
THERE GOES
ROGUE...
...AFTER
STORM!

JUST
MY
LUCK.

C'MON, BABE--
GUESS WE
BETTER GET
DRESSED AND
FIND OUT
WHAT'S
COOKING.

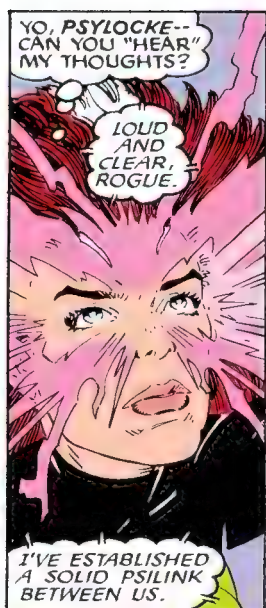


STORM'S REALLY ROLLIN'--
AIN'T A SIGN OF HER.

MUST BE
ROYALLY
UPSET,
TOO.

WEATHER
TENDS TO
REFLECT
HOW SHE
FEELS.

AN' THERE'S ONE
HECKUVA THUNDERSTORM
BUILDIN' BEHIND HER.



YO, PSYLOCKE--
CAN YOU "HEAR"
MY THOUGHTS?

LOUD
AND
CLEAR,
ROGUE.

I'VE ESTABLISHED
A SOLID PSILINK
BETWEEN US.



AM AH GOIN'
THE RIGHT WAY,
BETSY?

I...
CANNOT
SAY.

I'M IN
MENTAL CONTACT
WITH ORORO, BUT
SHE'S IGNORING
MY CALLS.

ALL I CAN GLEAN
FROM HER IS A
TREMENDOUS RAGE
AND AN OVER-
WHELMING SENSE
OF URGENCY--

-- WHATEVER
IS DRIVING
HER IS A
PRIMAL FORCE
THAT CANNOT
BE DENIED.

WHAT D'YOU
THINK,
WOLVERINE?

NOTHIN'
WORTH
NOTIN'.

THIS
COMPUTER
CENTER'S YOUR
PLAYGROUND,
MADELYNE--
SEE IF ITS
SENSORS CAN
TELL US
ANYTHING.

HEY, GUYS--
IT'S PRETTY
HAIRY OUTSIDE.

GONNA
BE A BEAUT
OF A
STORM.

THAT IS
STORM'S
DOING,
HAVOK.

WE ARE
TRYING TO
DISCOVER
WHY.

I CANNOT VECTOR ROGUE TO STORM'S POSITION.

ORORO'S BLOCKING ME, I CAN'T PICK UP ANY NAVIGATIONAL BENCHMARKS FROM HER MIND. I SENSE HER, NOT WHERE SHE IS.

MADELYNE?

PSYLOCKE, RELAY THIS TO ROGUE, PLEASE.

POSITIVE TRACK-- SHE'S PASSING MELBOURNE-- WOLVIE, I'VE NEVER SEEN STORM MOVE SO FAST, I DIDN'T KNOW SUCH SPEED WAS EVEN POSSIBLE!

SHE'S GENERATING HER OWN HIGH-ALTITUDE JETSTREAM.

I'LL PUNCH UP A HOLOGRAPHIC DISPLAY...

"...SO WE CAN PROJECT HER COURSE."

Y'KNOW, THIS HARDWARE ADDS A WHOLE NEW DIMENSION TO THE TERM, "STATE-OF-THE-ART."

WASN'T SO LONG AGO, IT WAS ALL RUN BY THE CROOKS WHO USED TO BE BASED HERE.

MAKE YOU NERVOUS, BOY...

...US USIN' THEIR EQUIPMENT?

YOU BETCHA!

STORM'S HEADING SOUTH.

SHE HAS A FORMIDABLE LEAD, ROGUE AND, CONSIDERING HER SPEED...

...IT'S DOUBTFUL YOU CAN CATCH HER.

WOLVERINE WANTS YOU TO FOLLOW, AND BACK HER UP SHOULD SHE ENCOUNTER ANY TROUBLE.

THE REST OF US WILL RENDEZVOUS WITH YOU AT THE OTHER END.

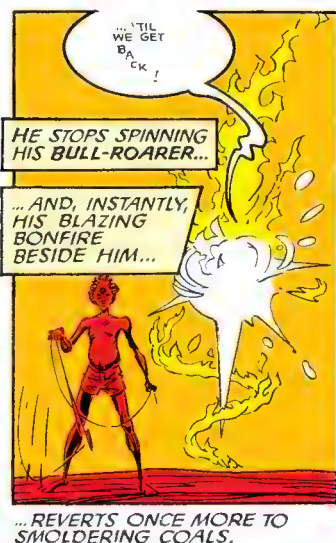
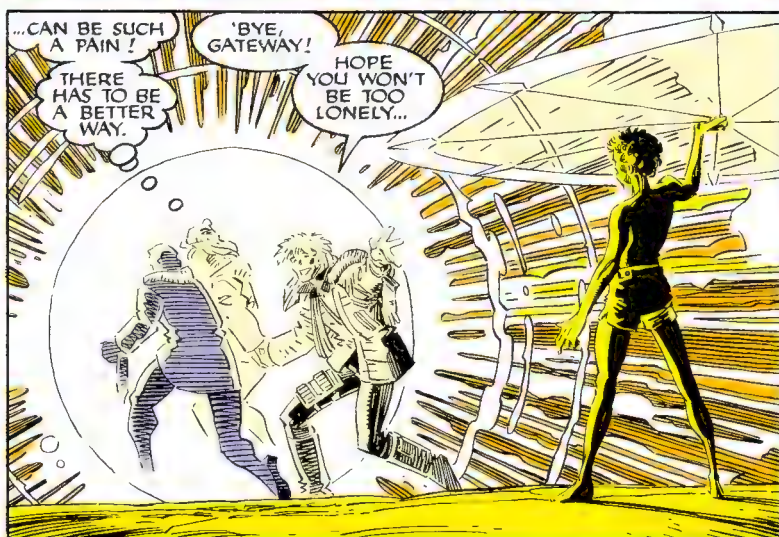
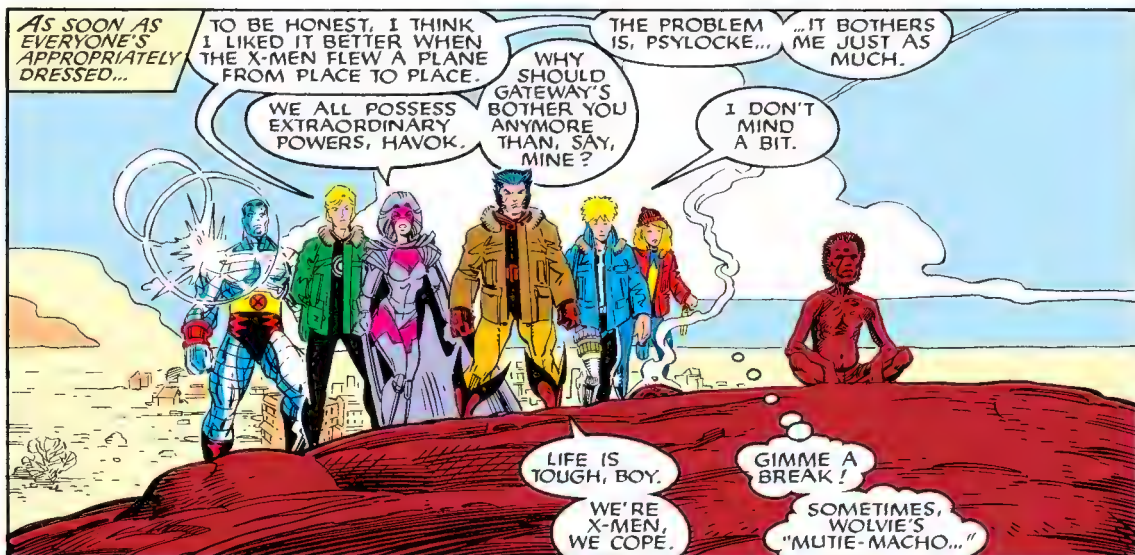
EVEN IF YOU'VE GUESSED RIGHT ABOUT HER DESTINATION...

...ANTARCTICA'S A CONTINENT!

HOW DO WE KNOW PRECISELY WHERE STORM'S GOING?!

ONLY ONE PLACE ON THAT HEADING MAKES ANY SENSE, DARLIN'.

THE SAVAGE LAND!



AND THE PORTAL CLOSES, SILENCE AND SOLITUDE RETURNING TO THIS ETERNAL PLACE...



MEANWHILE...

...ROUGHLY FOUR THOUSAND MILES DOWN AND TO THE LEFT (ON ANY SELF-RESPECTING MAP)...

WHAT THE FLAMIN'--?!!

THE SAVAGE LAND--

--IT'S GONE!

PERHAPS COMRADE GATEWAY TELEPORTED US TO THE WRONG PLACE?

NO SUCH LUCK.

I RECOGNIZE THE MOUNTAINS.

THIS USED TO BE...

...A PREHISTORIC JUNGLE.

WELL, IT'S AN ICEBOX, NOW.

COULD YOU HOLD ME, LONGSHOT?

I FEEL... COLD-- LIKE I'M IN A GIANT GRAVEYARD.

CHANCES ARE, DAZZ, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.

THIS USED TO BE THE VILLAGE OF THE FALL PEOPLE-- FRIENDS OF OURS.

LAND'S BEEN BURN-SCOURED DOWN TO THE BARE ROCK.

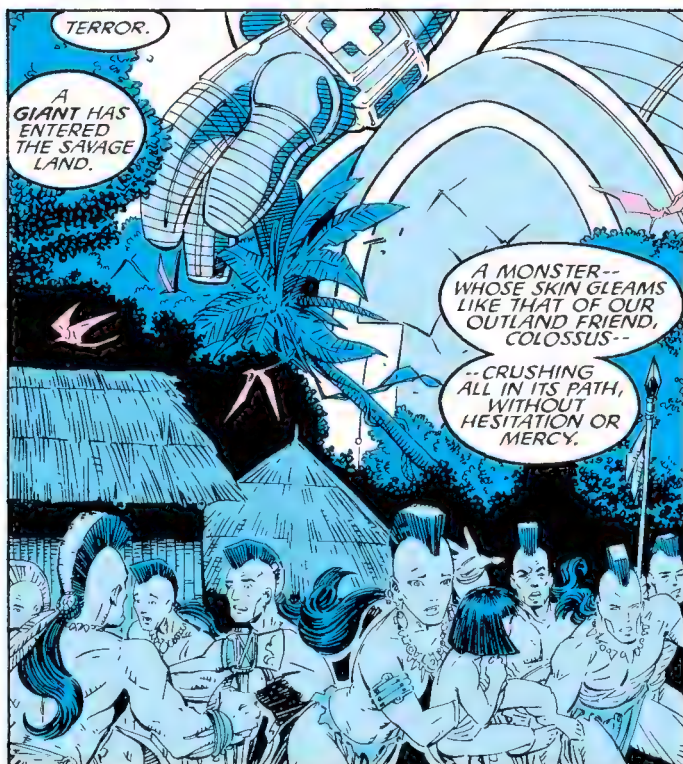
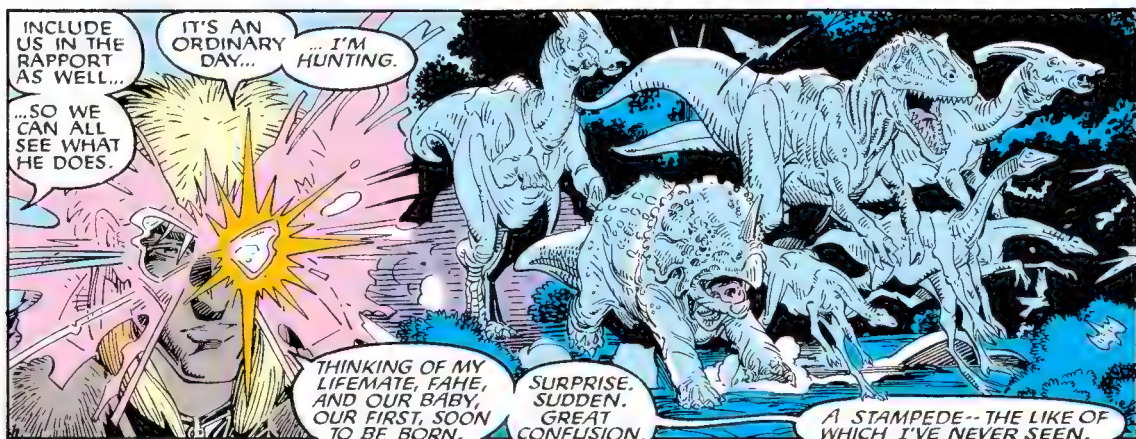
WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

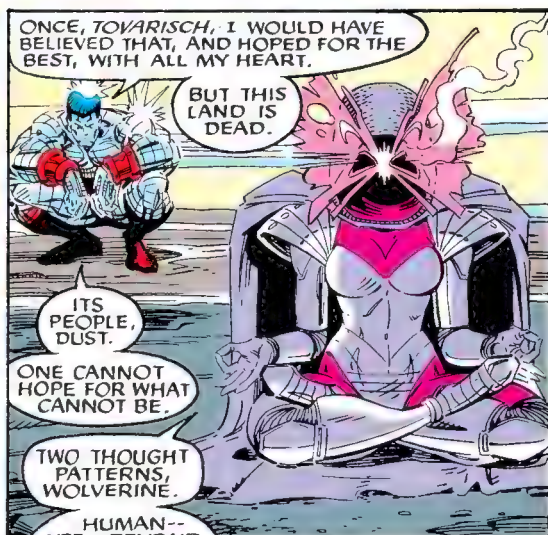
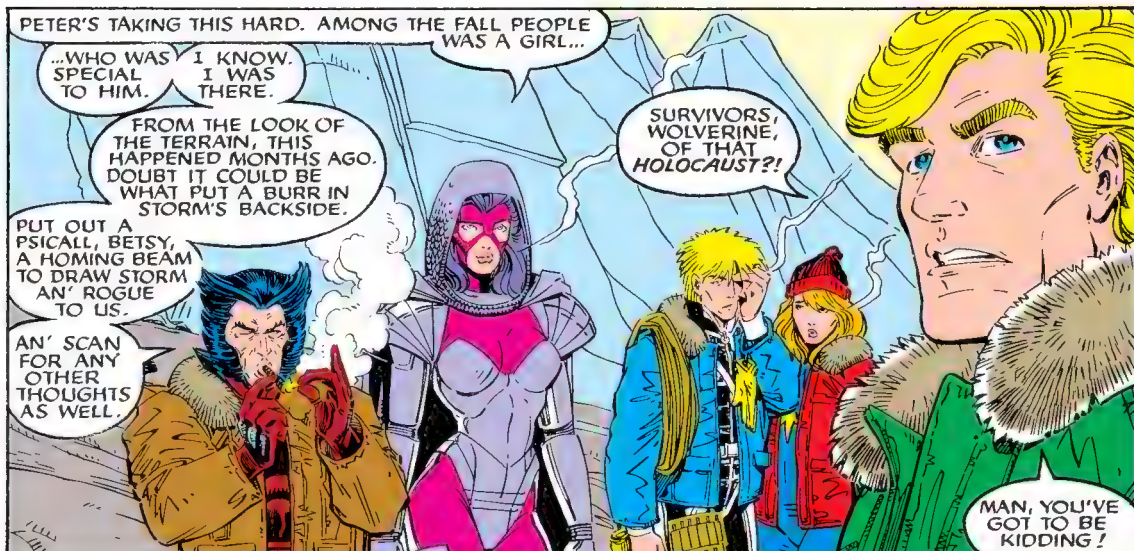
LONGSHOT-- CAN YOU USE YOUR PSYCHOMETRIC POWER TO "READ" THE HISTORY OF THIS BONE, AN? MAYBE TELL US HOW THE PERSON IT BELONGED TO DIED.

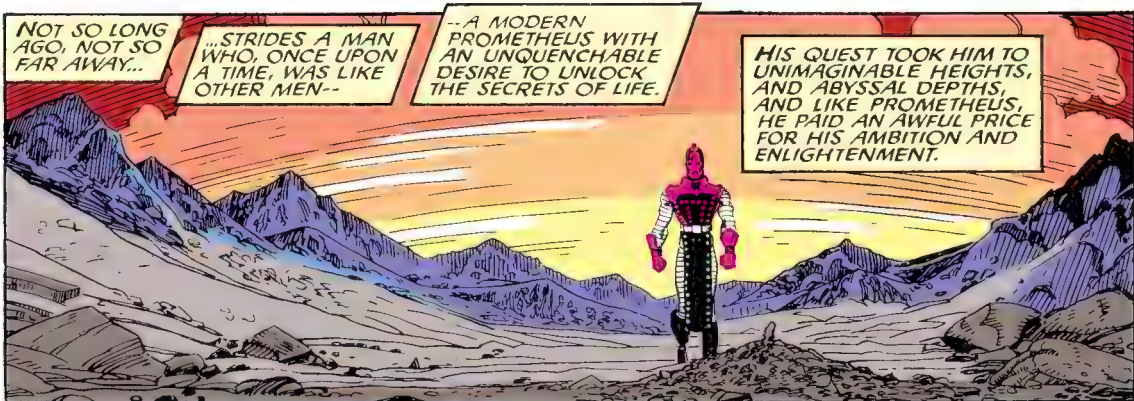
OK, GROSS!

IT COULD BE ROUGH. PSYLOCKE, MINDLINK WITH HIM...

...TO BUFFER HIM AGAINST ANY PSYCHIC BACKLASH SHOCK.







NOT SO LONG
AGO, NOT SO
FAR AWAY...

...STRIDES A MAN
WHO, ONCE UPON
A TIME, WAS LIKE
OTHER MEN--

--A MODERN
PROMETHEUS WITH
AN UNQUENCHABLE
DESIRE TO UNLOCK
THE SECRETS OF LIFE.

HIS QUEST TOOK HIM TO
UNIMAGINABLE HEIGHTS,
AND ABYSSAL DEPTHS,
AND LIKE PROMETHEUS,
HE PAID AN AWFUL PRICE
FOR HIS AMBITION AND
ENLIGHTENMENT.

ALSO LIKE PROMETHEUS,
HE DOESN'T CARE.

HE IS THE **HIGH
EVOLUTIONARY.**

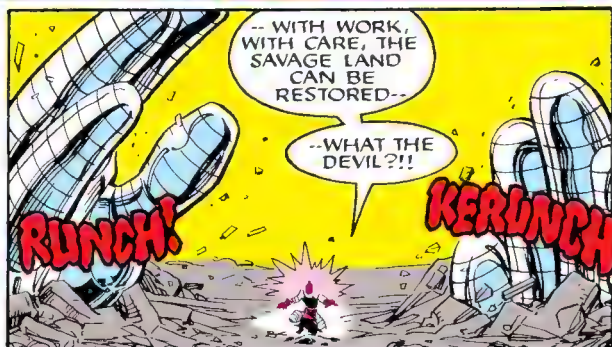
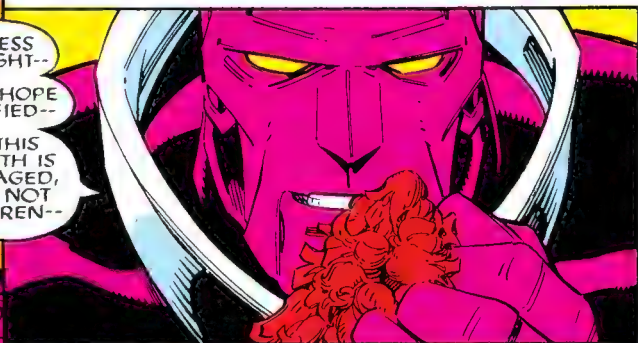
SARCODES
SANGUINEA?!!

BY THE ETERNAL--
A SNOW
PLANT!?!

MY GUESS
WAS RIGHT--

--MY HOPE
JUSTIFIED--

--THIS
EARTH IS
RAVAGED,
BUT NOT
BARREN--

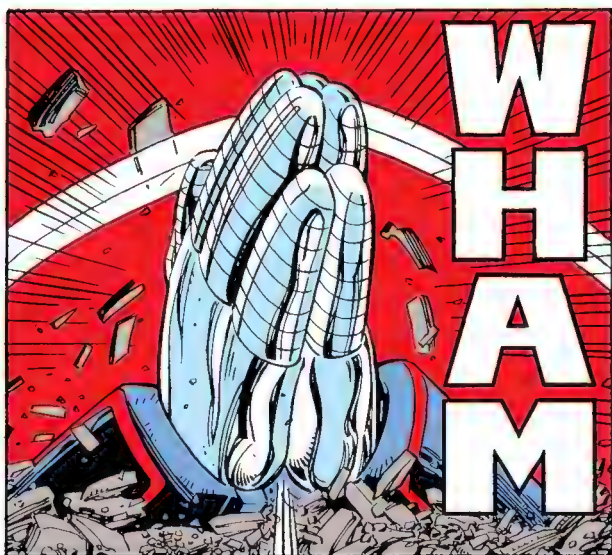


-- WITH WORK,
WITH CARE, THE
SAVAGE LAND
CAN BE
RESTORED--

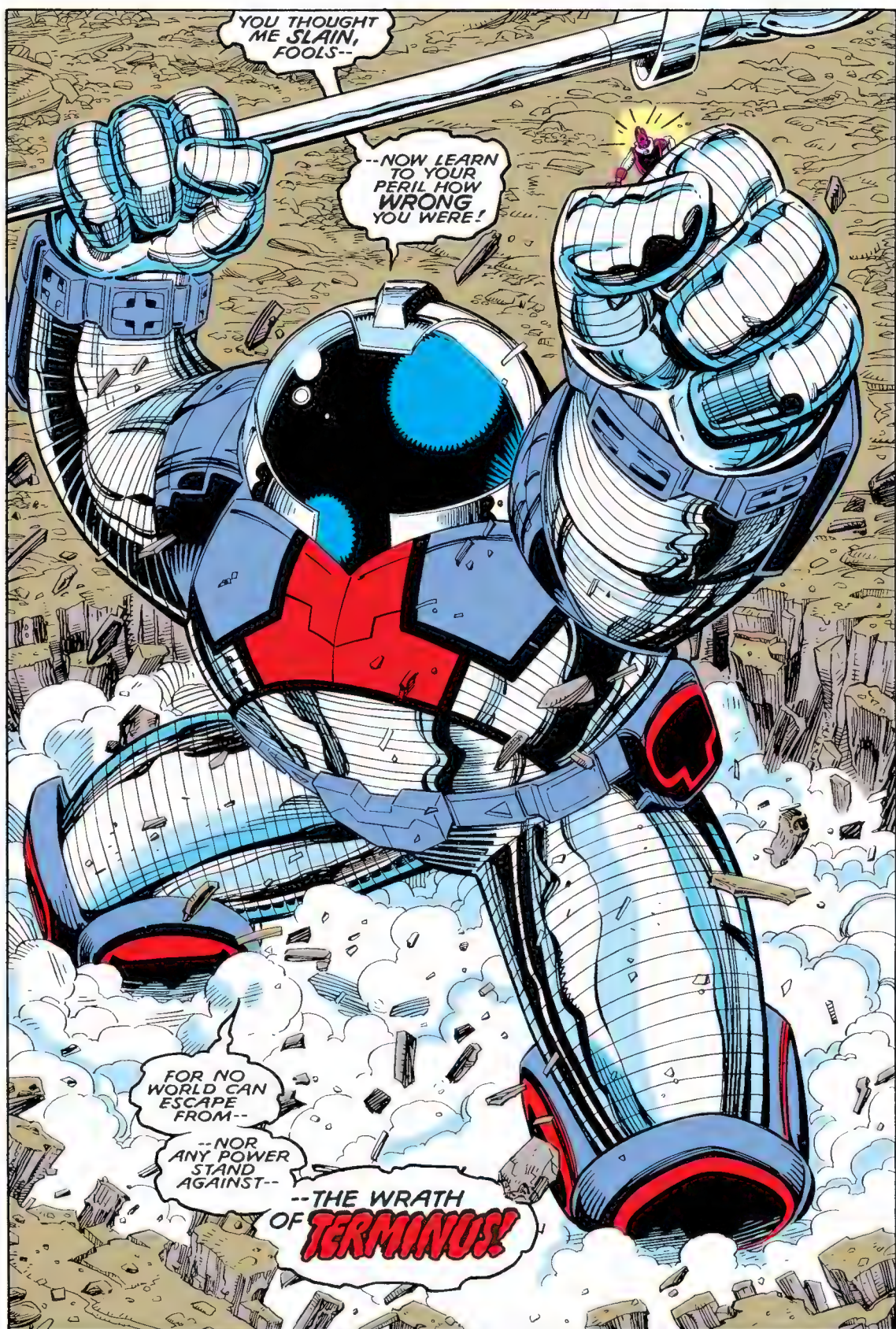
--WHAT THE
DEVIL?!!

RUNCH!

KERLUNCH



**W
H
A
M**



YOU THOUGHT
ME SLAIN,
FOOLS--

--NOW LEARN
TO YOUR
PERIL HOW
WRONG
YOU WERE!

FOR NO
WORLD CAN
ESCAPE
FROM--

--NOR
ANY POWER
STAND
AGAINST--

--THE WRATH
OF
TERMINUS!

BUT THEN...

A BEAM OF SOLID LIGHT!

ARE THE NATIVES OF THIS PATHETIC PLANET STILL DETERMINED TO MATCH THEIR PUNY MIGHT AGAINST MINE?!

CHAZAM

WE SURE AIM...

...TO GIVE IT THE OL' COLLEGE TRY!

HE'S TOO BIG--

I'M PUMPING EVERY PHOTON I CAN THROUGH THIS BEAM, GUYS...

...AND IT'S DOING NOTHING!

EVIDENTLY, YOU HAVEN'T YET LEARNED YOUR LESSON.

POW!

ALLOW ME TO REMEDY THAT OVER-SIGHT.

BEHIND ME, DAZZLER.

YIKES!
THANKS, COLOSSUS!

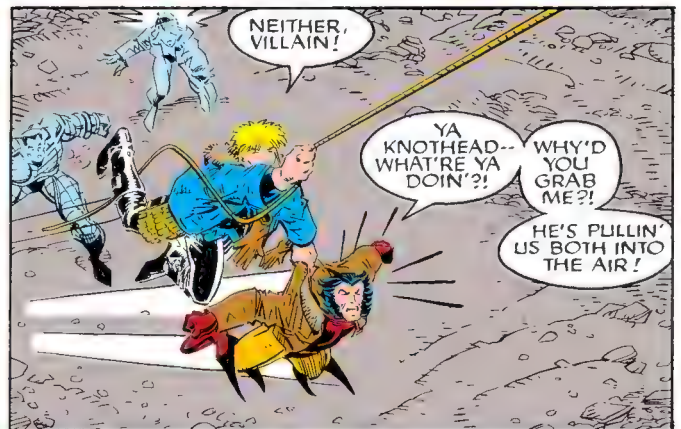
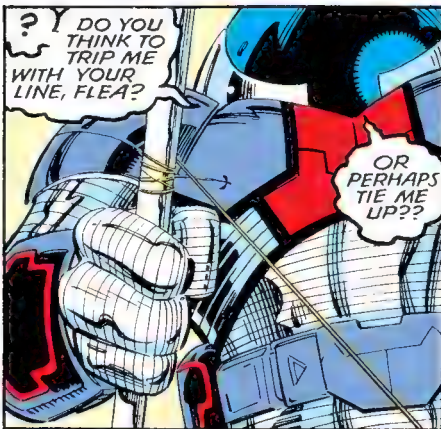
BUT CAN EVEN HIS ARMORED BODY...

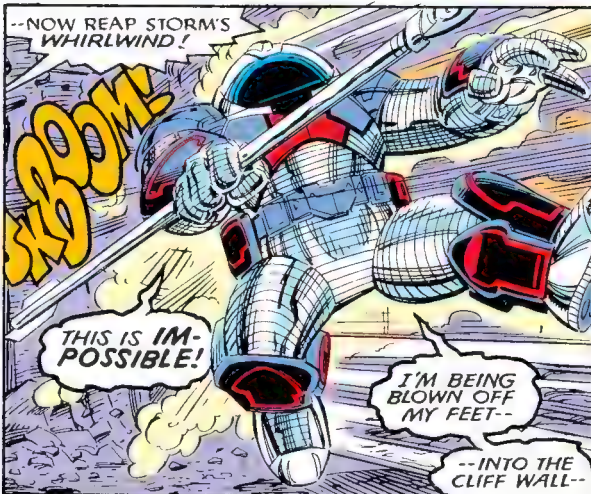
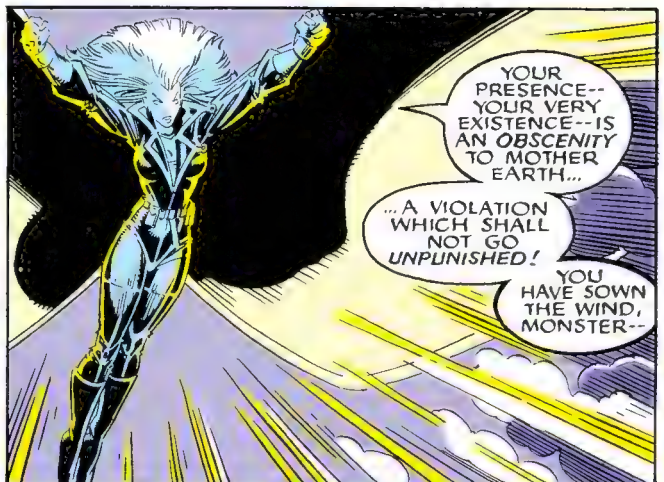
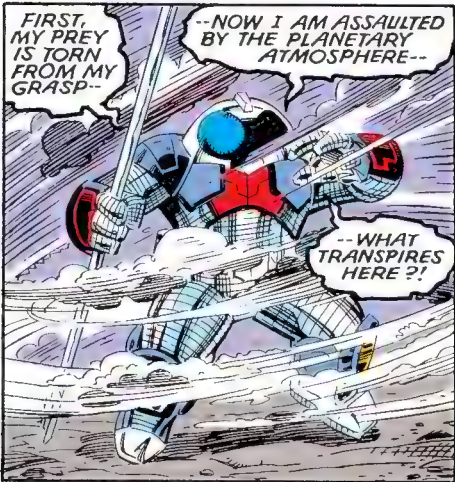
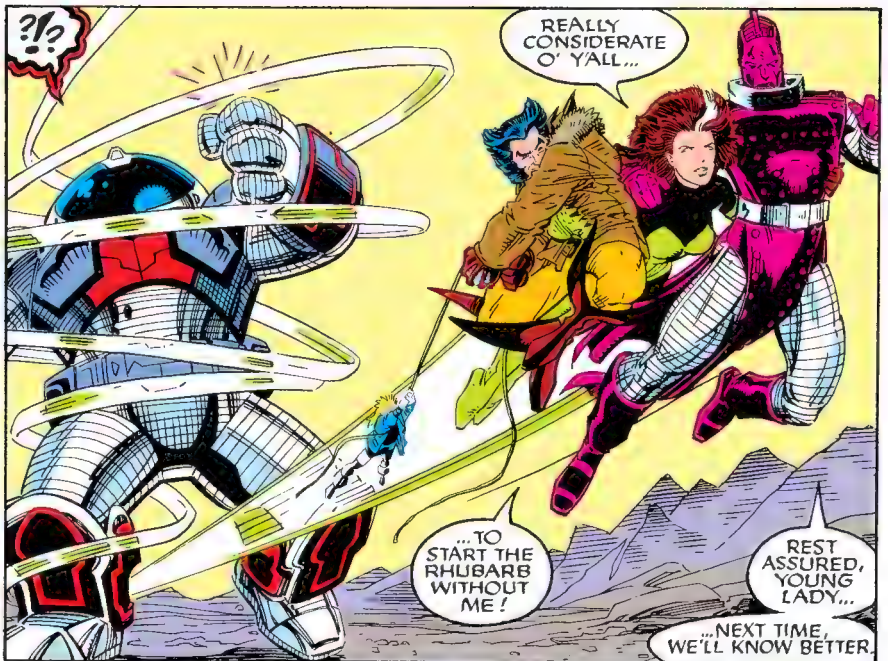
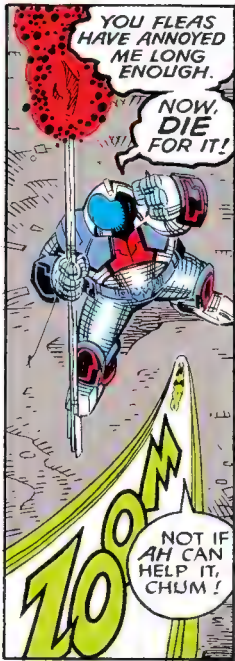
...ENDURE THIS PUNISHMENT FOR LONG?!

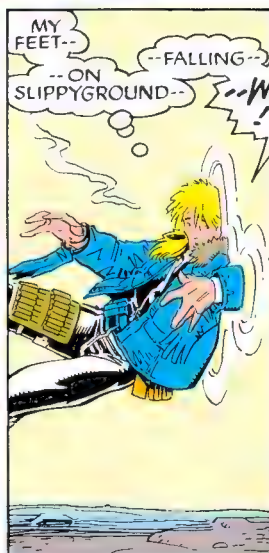
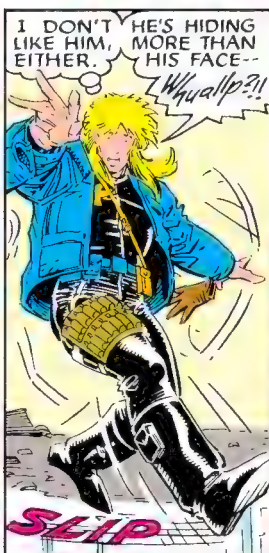
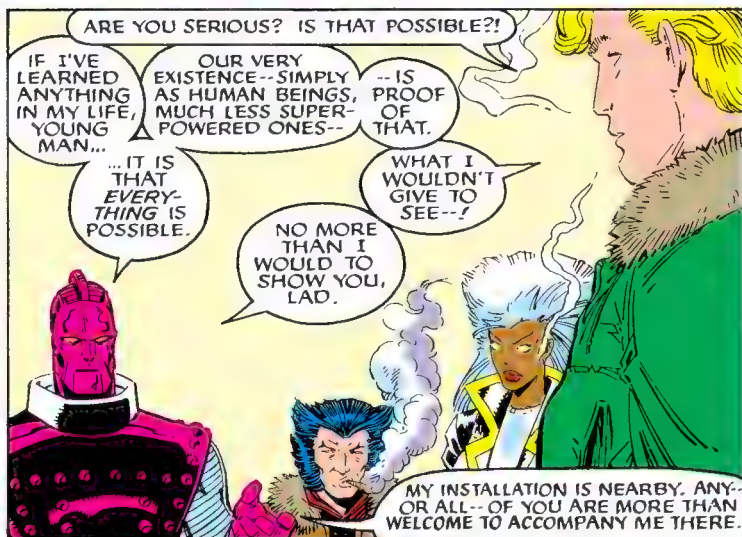
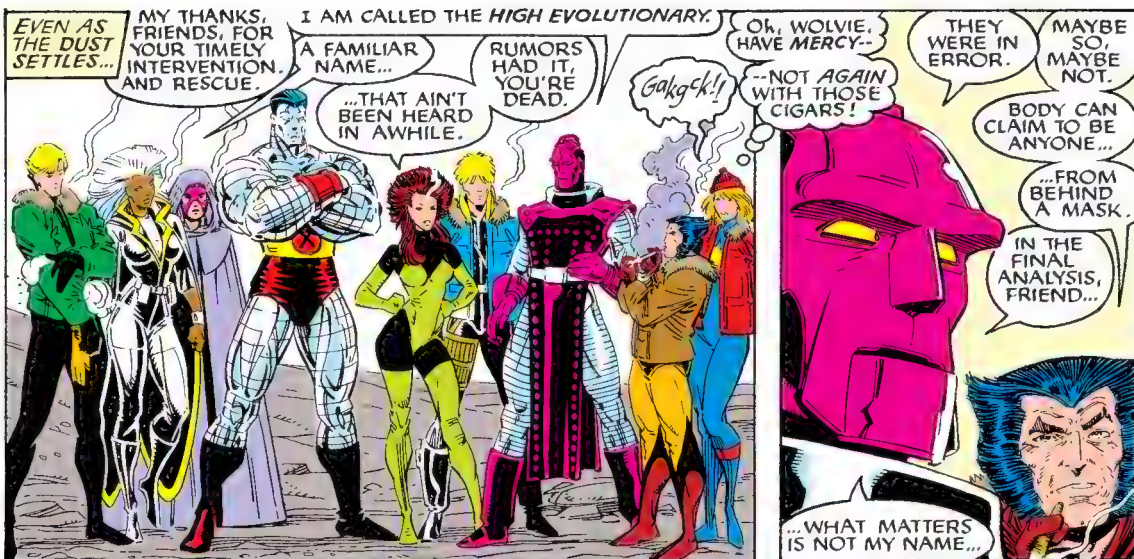
DAZZLER'S FORCE BEAM DIDN'T FAZE HIM...

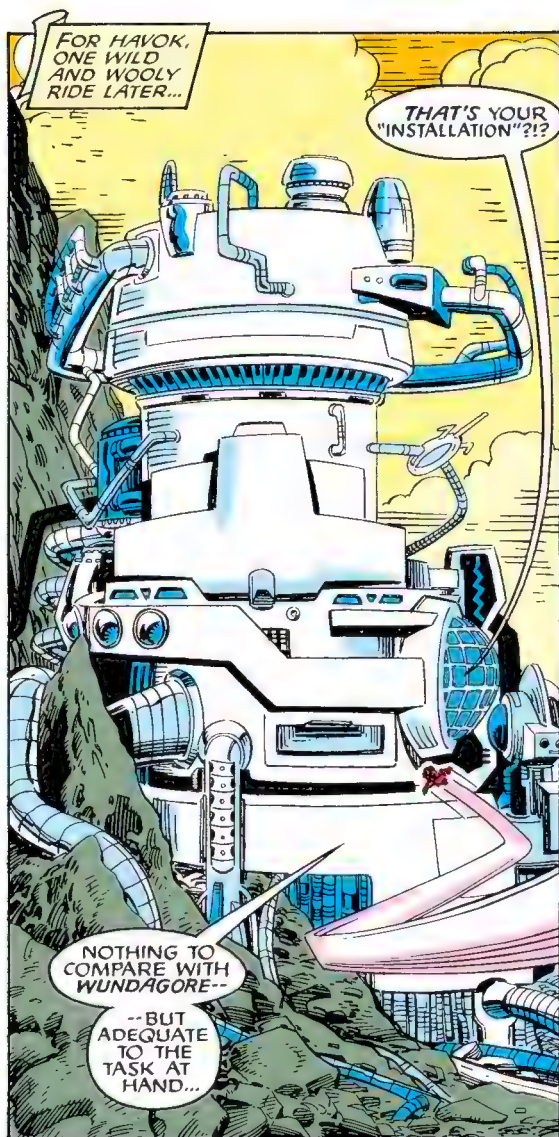
--SO LET'S SEE HOW HE LIKES--

...MY ULTRA-ENERGY PLASMA!







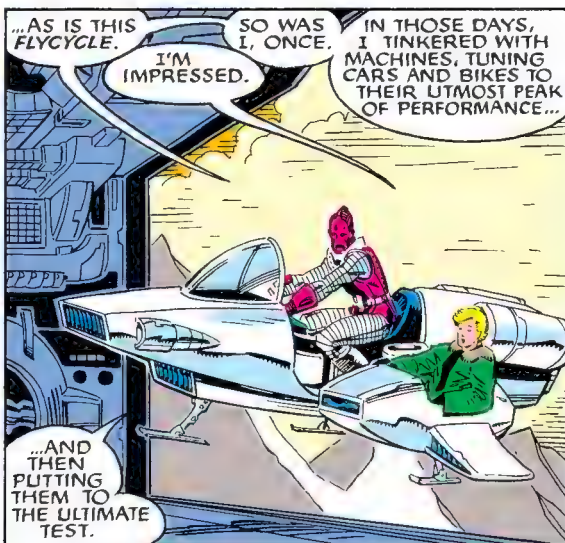


FOR HAVOK,
ONE WILD
AND WOOLY
RIDE LATER...

THAT'S YOUR
"INSTALLATION"???

NOTHING TO
COMPARE WITH
WUNDAGORE--

--BUT
ADEQUATE
TO THE
TASK AT
HAND...



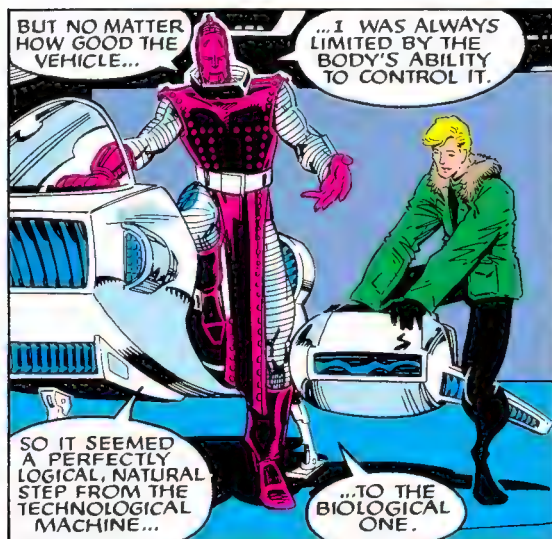
...AS IS THIS
FLYCYCLE.

SO WAS
I, ONCE.

IN THOSE DAYS,
I TINKERED WITH
MACHINES, TUNING
CARS AND BIKES TO
THEIR UTMOST PEAK
OF PERFORMANCE...

I'M
IMPRESSED.

...AND
THEN
PUTTING
THEM TO
THE ULTIMATE
TEST.

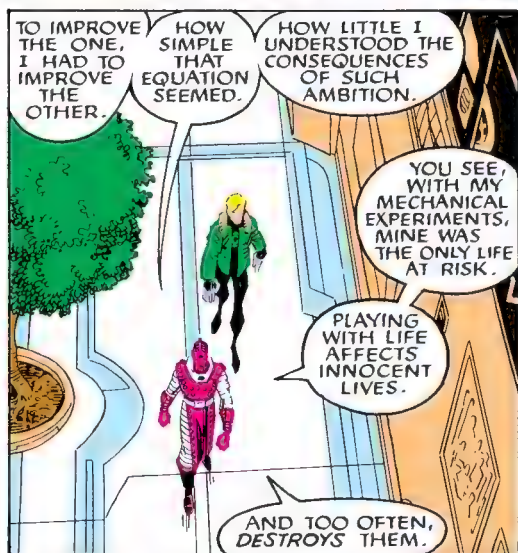


BUT NO MATTER
HOW GOOD THE
VEHICLE...

...I WAS ALWAYS
LIMITED BY THE
BODY'S ABILITY
TO CONTROL IT.

SO IT SEEMED
A PERFECTLY
LOGICAL, NATURAL
STEP FROM THE
TECHNOLOGICAL
MACHINE...

...TO THE
BIOLOGICAL
ONE.



TO IMPROVE
THE ONE,
I HAD TO
IMPROVE
THE OTHER.

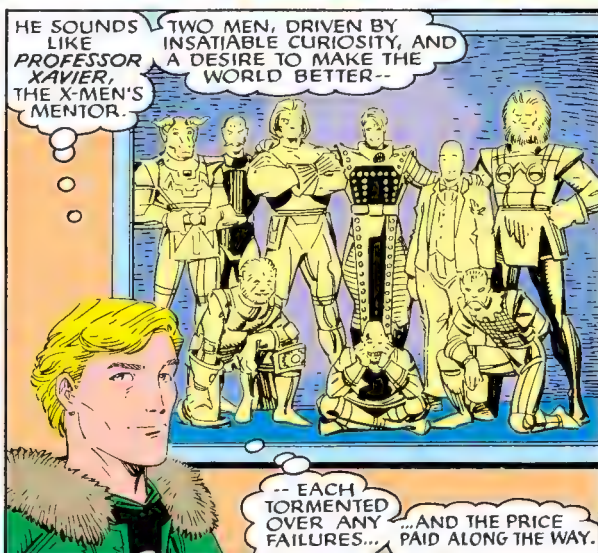
HOW
SIMPLE
THAT
EQUATION
SEEMED.

HOW LITTLE I
UNDERSTOOD THE
CONSEQUENCES
OF SUCH
AMBITION.

YOU SEE,
WITH MY
MECHANICAL
EXPERIMENTS,
MINE WAS
THE ONLY LIFE
AT RISK.

PLAYING
WITH LIFE
AFFECTS
INNOCENT
LIVES.

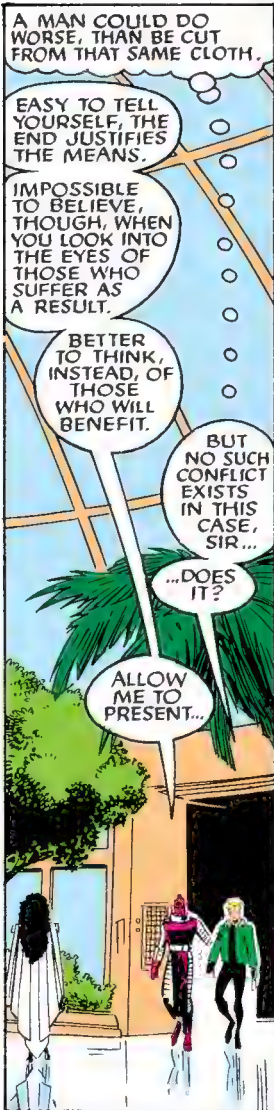
AND TOO OFTEN,
DESTROYS THEM.



HE SOUNDS
LIKE
PROFESSOR
XAVIER,
THE X-MEN'S
MENTOR.

TWO MEN, DRIVEN BY
INSATIABLE CURIOSITY, AND
A DESIRE TO MAKE THE
WORLD BETTER--

-- EACH
TORMENTED
OVER ANY
FAILURES...
...AND THE PRICE
PAID ALONG THE WAY.



A MAN COULD DO WORSE, THAN BE CUT FROM THAT SAME CLOTH.

EASY TO TELL YOURSELF, THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS.

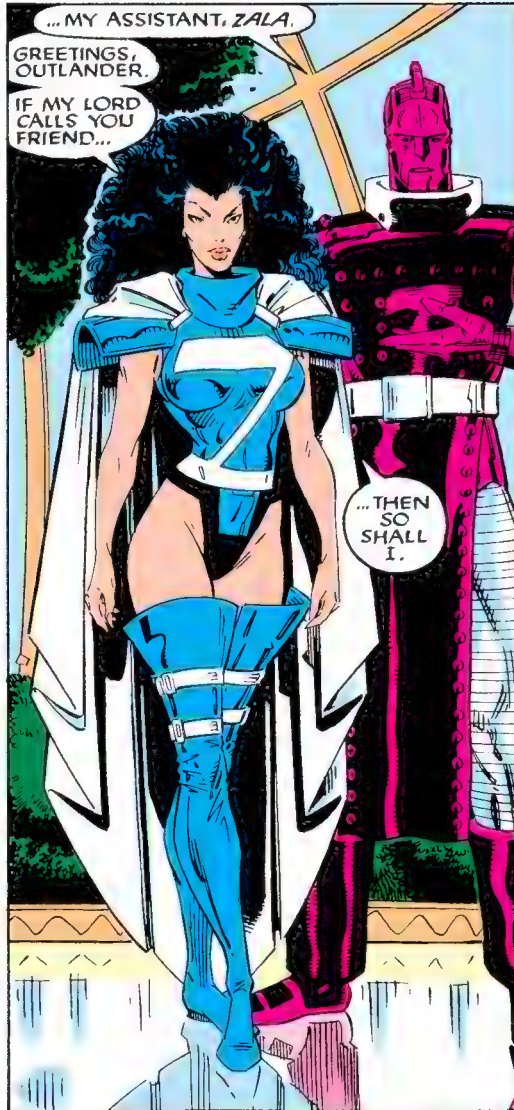
IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE, THOUGH, WHEN YOU LOOK INTO THE EYES OF THOSE WHO SUFFER AS A RESULT.

BETTER TO THINK, INSTEAD, OF THOSE WHO WILL BENEFIT.

BUT NO SUCH CONFLICT EXISTS IN THIS CASE, SIR...

...DOES IT?

ALLOW ME TO PRESENT...

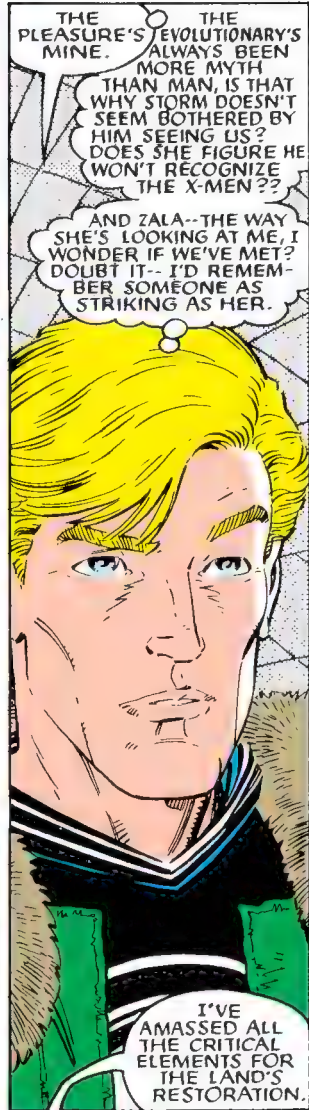


...MY ASSISTANT, ZALA.

GREETINGS, OUTLANDER.

IF MY LORD CALLS YOU FRIEND...

...THEN SO SHALL I.



THE PLEASURE'S ALWAYS BEEN MINE.

THE EVOLUTIONARY'S MORE MYTH THAN MAN, IS THAT WHY STORM DOESN'T SEEM BOTHERED BY HIM SEEING US? DOES SHE FIGURE HE WON'T RECOGNIZE THE X-MEN??

AND ZALA--THE WAY SHE'S LOOKING AT ME, I WONDER IF WE'VE MET? DOUBT IT-- I'D REMEMBER SOMEONE AS STRIKING AS HER.

I'VE AMASSED ALL THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS FOR THE LAND'S RESTORATION.

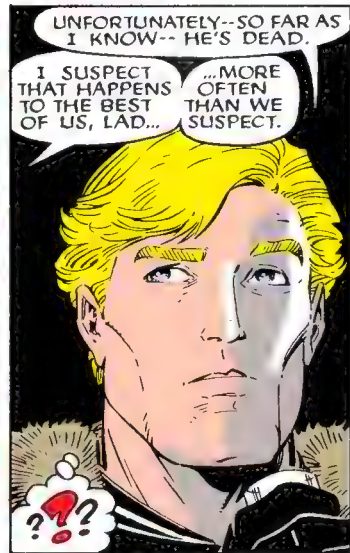


ALL I LACK IS THE FOCUS-CATALYST NECESSARY TO TRIGGER THE PROCESS.

A LIVING BEING--PREFERABLY A MUTANT--WHOSE PRIMAL NATURE IS IN SYNC WITH THE LAND'S.

THE WAY YOU PHRASE IT, I CAN THINK OF ONE PERSON...

...WHO'D FIT THAT BILL PERFECTLY.

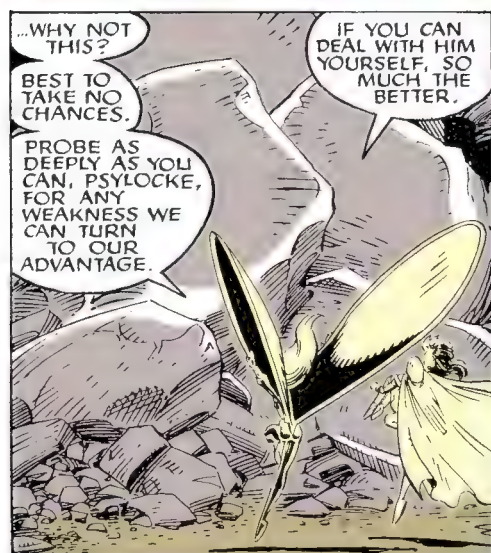


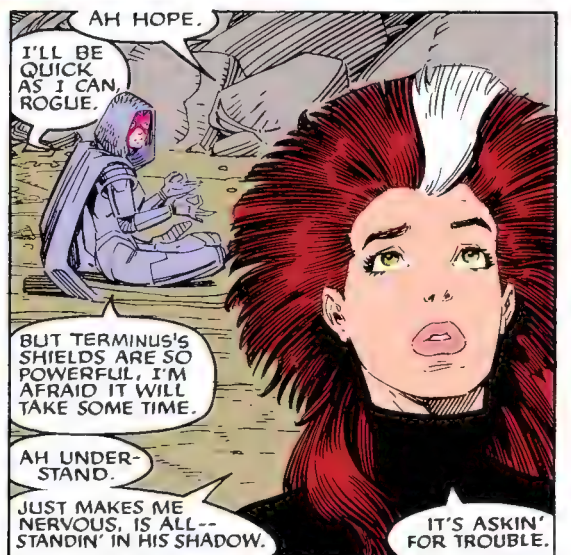
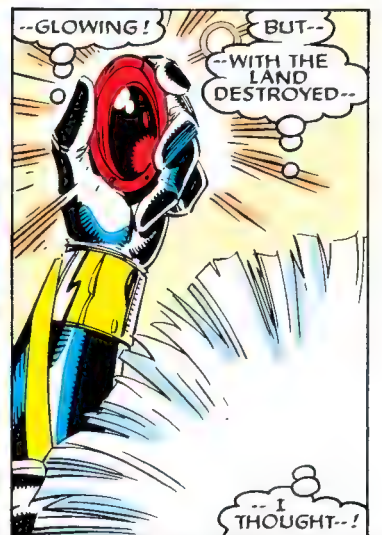
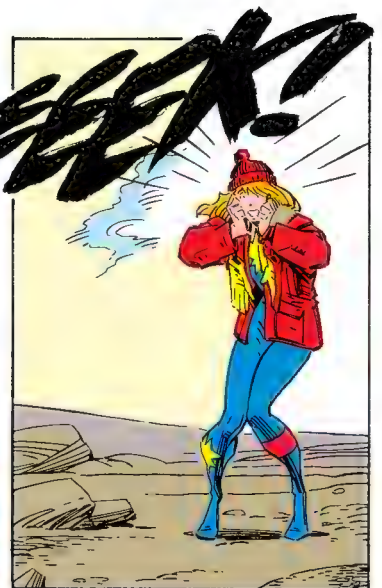
UNFORTUNATELY--SO FAR AS I KNOW-- HE'S DEAD.

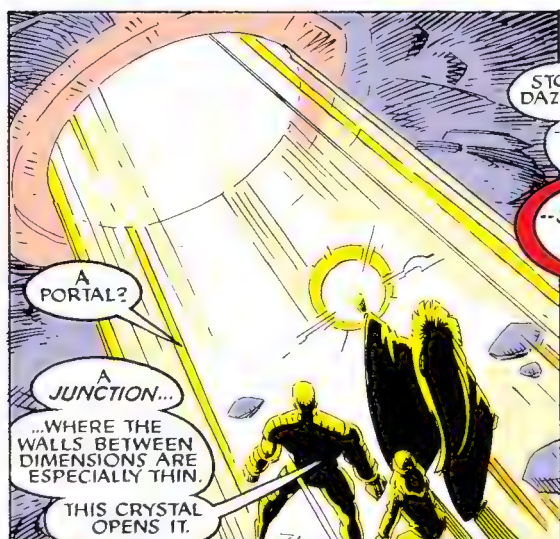
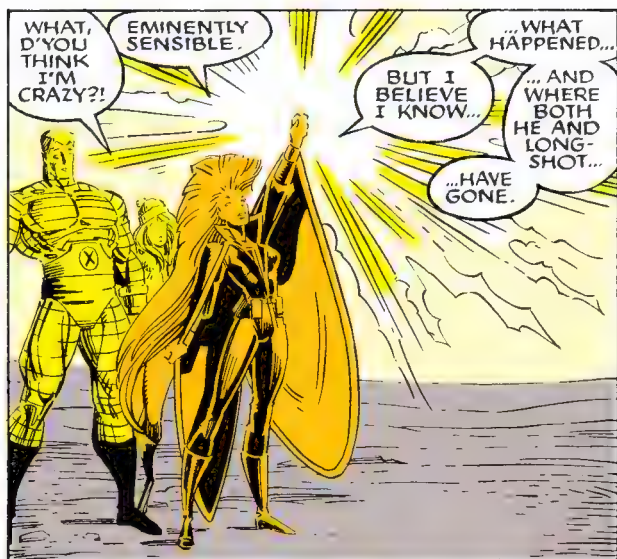
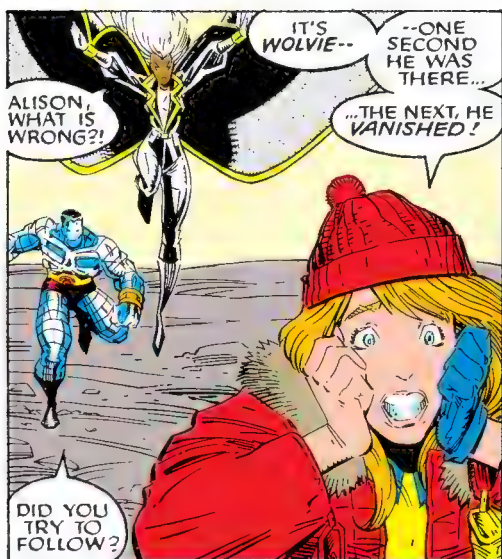
I SUSPECT THAT HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US, LAD...

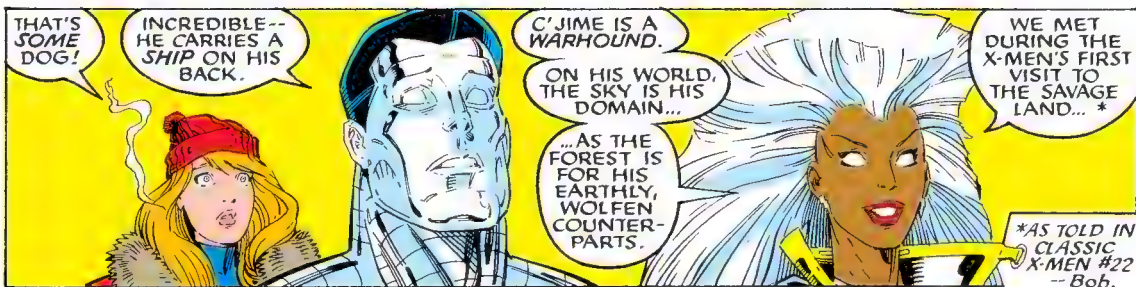
...MORE OFTEN THAN WE SUSPECT.

???







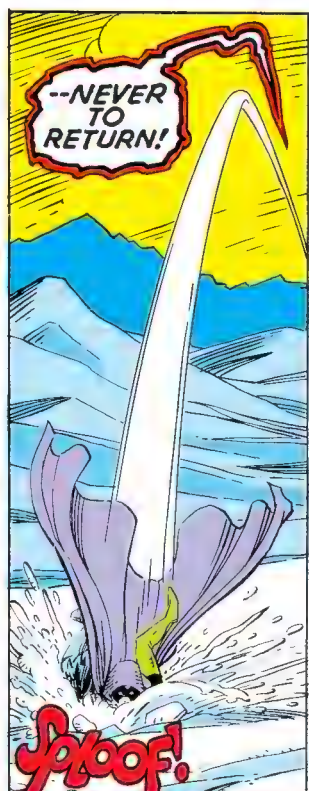
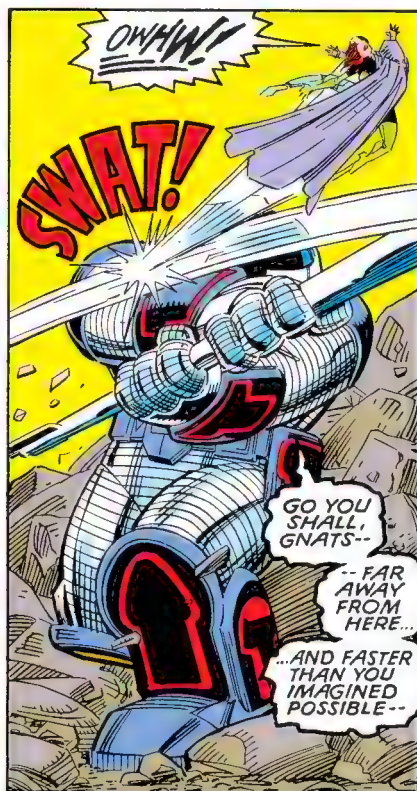
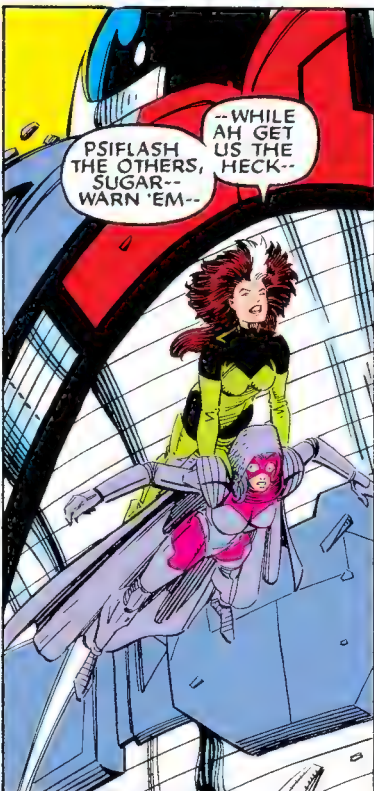
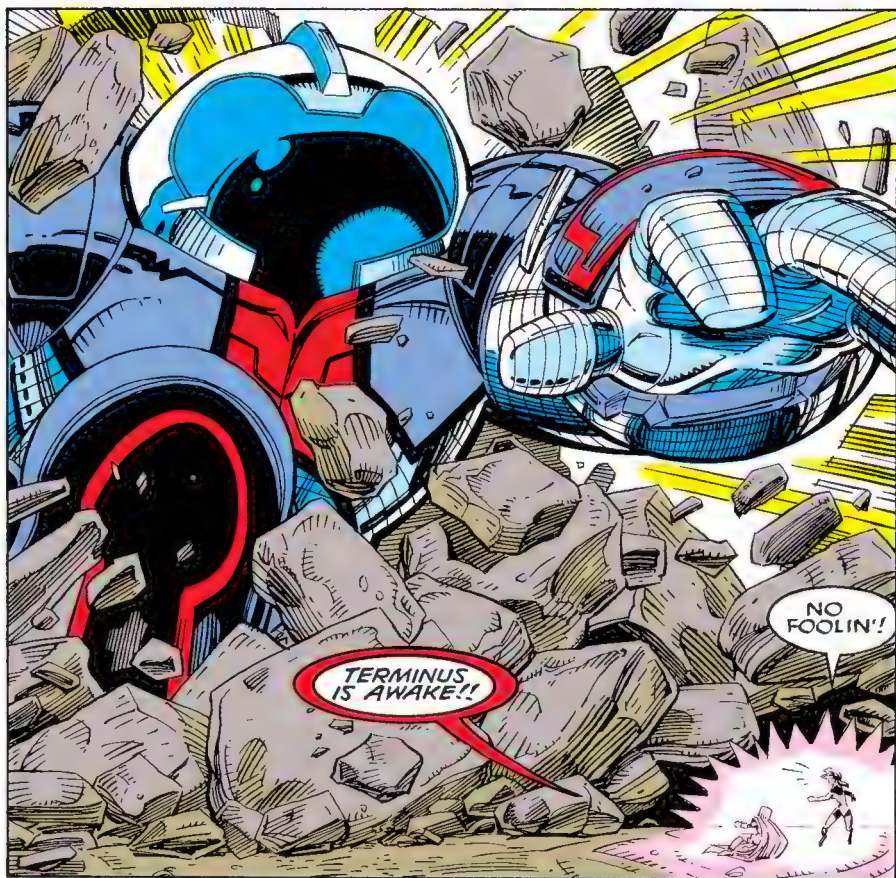
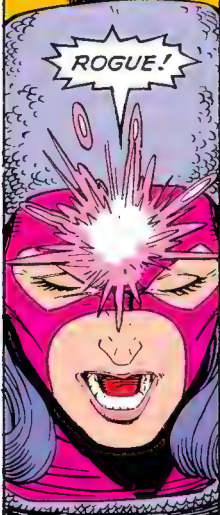


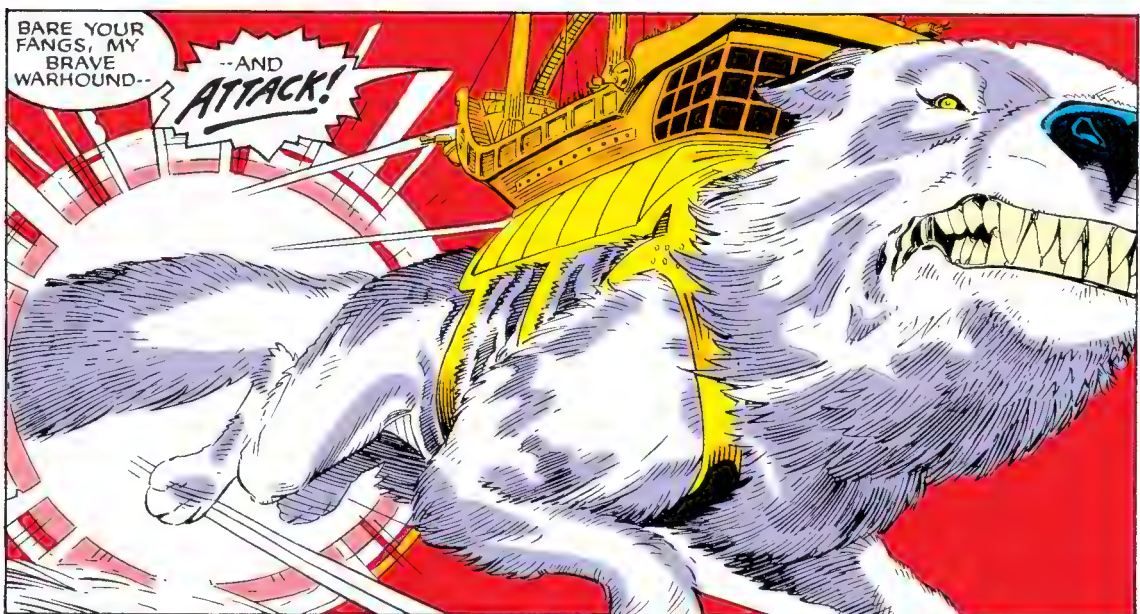
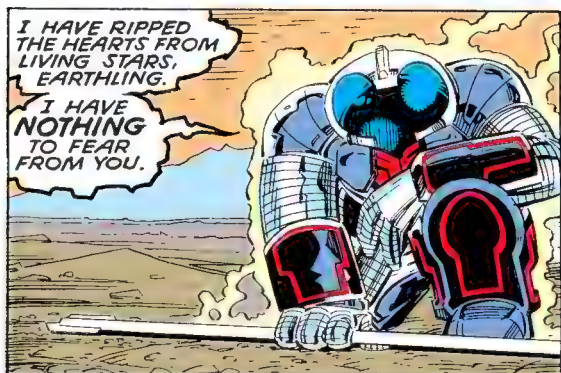
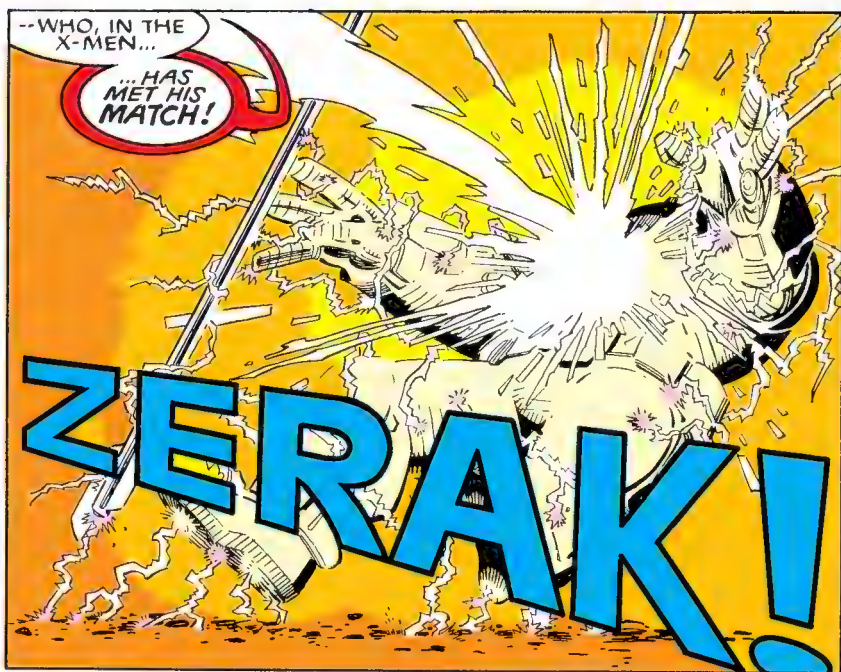
ELSEWHERE...

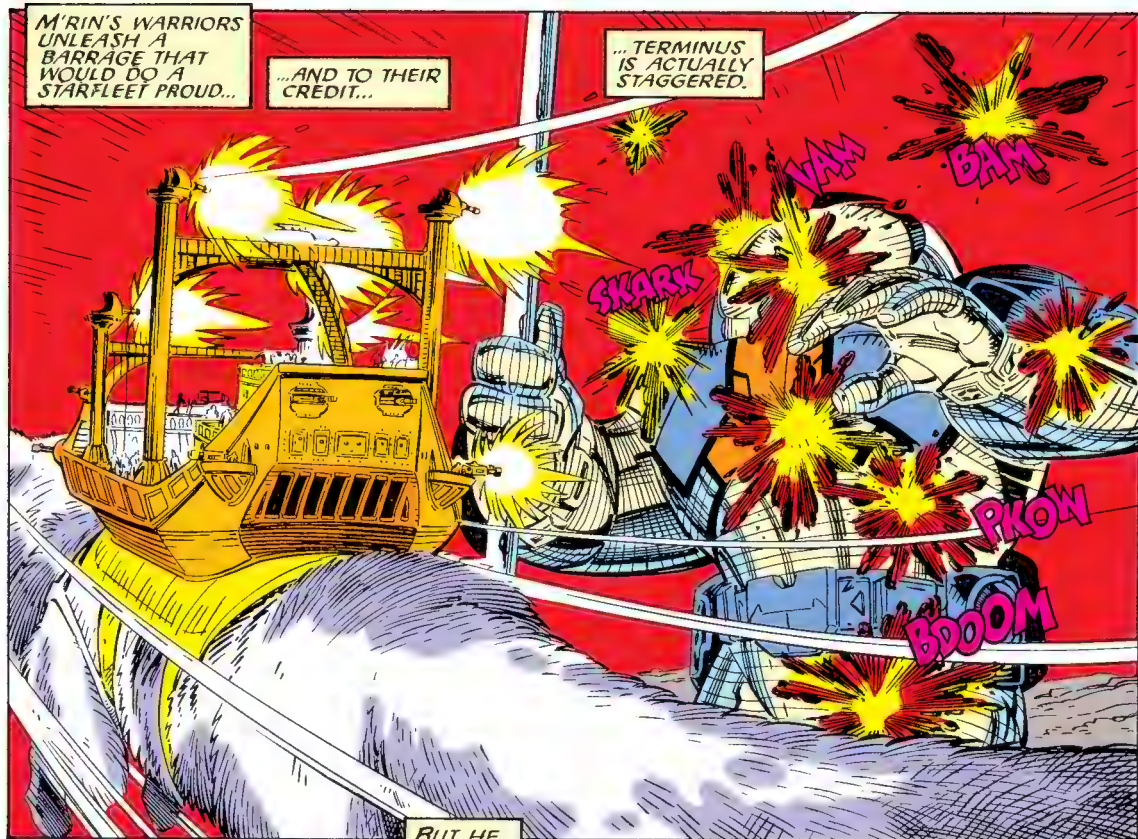
NEXT TIME,
MAYBE AH
SHOULD
BRING A
BOOK...



ROGUE!







M'RIN'S WARRIORS
UNLEASH A
BARRAGE THAT
WOULD DO A
STARFLEET PROUD...

...AND TO THEIR
CREDIT...

...TERMINUS
IS ACTUALLY
STAGGERED.

BUT HE
DOESN'T
FALL.



AND ONLY C'JIME'S
PRETERNATURAL
AGILITY...

...SAVES THE
WARHOUND
FROM HIS
RETURN FIRE.



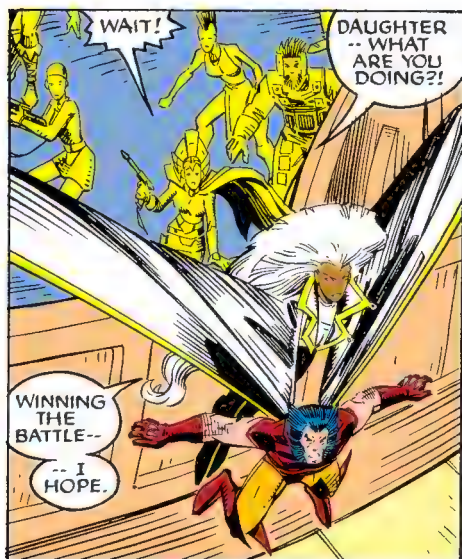
SO MUCH
FOR MY
PROUD
BOAST.

ORORO, IF WE CANNOT
BREACH THAT TITAN'S
ARMOR--

--STORM?!!

BE... NOT
ALARMED,
M'RIN.

IT IS PSYLOCKE--
OUR TELEPATH--
CONTACTING ME!



WAIT!
DAUGHTER -- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WINNING THE BATTLE--
-- I HOPE.



MIND TELLIN' ME HOW, DARLIN'?
M'--RIN-- KEEP FIRING--
--KEEP TERMINUS'S ATTENTION FOCUSED ON YOU!
IN GOOD TIME.

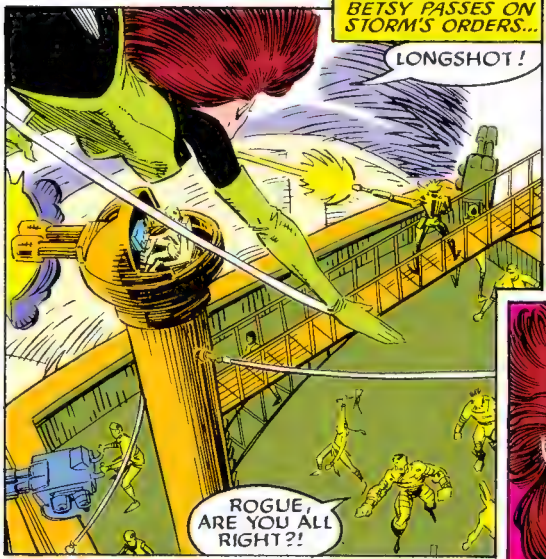


HAVOK--YOU HEARD PSYLOCKE'S CALL--?!
BARELY--IT WAS THE COMMOION CAUGHT OUR ATTENTION.
WHAT D'YOU WANT US TO DO?!

WAIT FOR MY CUE.
SHE'S GOT A PLAN.

IT BETTER BE GOOD.
I MEAN, HOW MUCH HARDER CAN WE HIT THIS CREEP?

PSYLOCKE--
I HEAR YOU, STORM.
-- BRING ROGUE INTO PLAY.



AND, AFTER BETSY PASSES ON STORM'S ORDERS...

LONGSHOT!

ROGUE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!



HANGIN' IN THERE, BIG GUY.

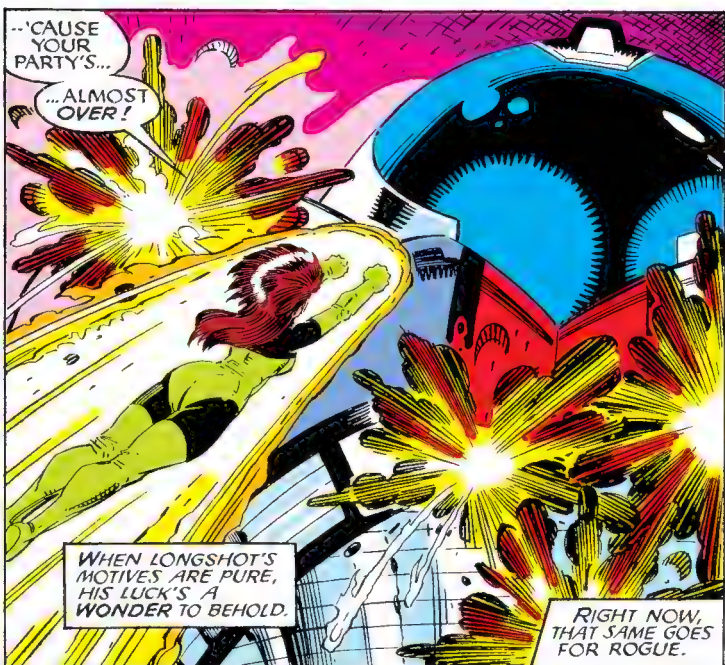
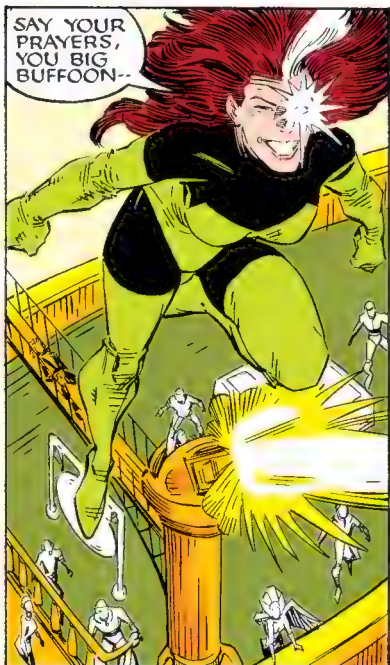
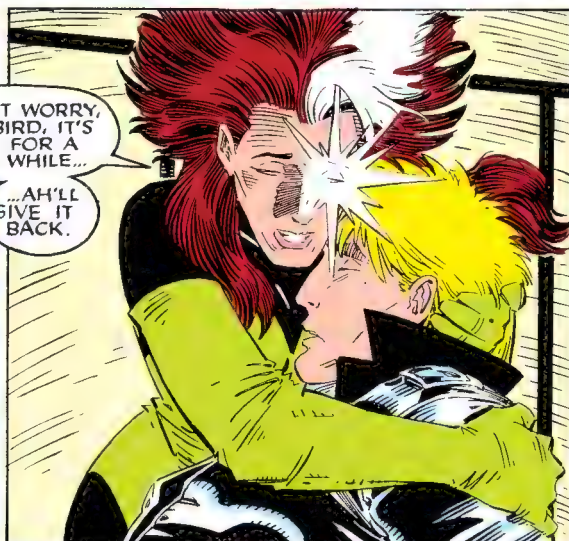
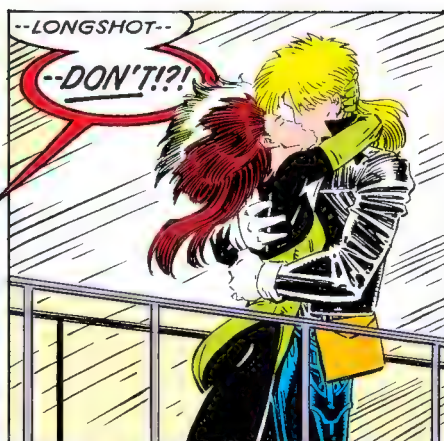
BUT ONLY JUST-- THAT WAS SOME HIT!

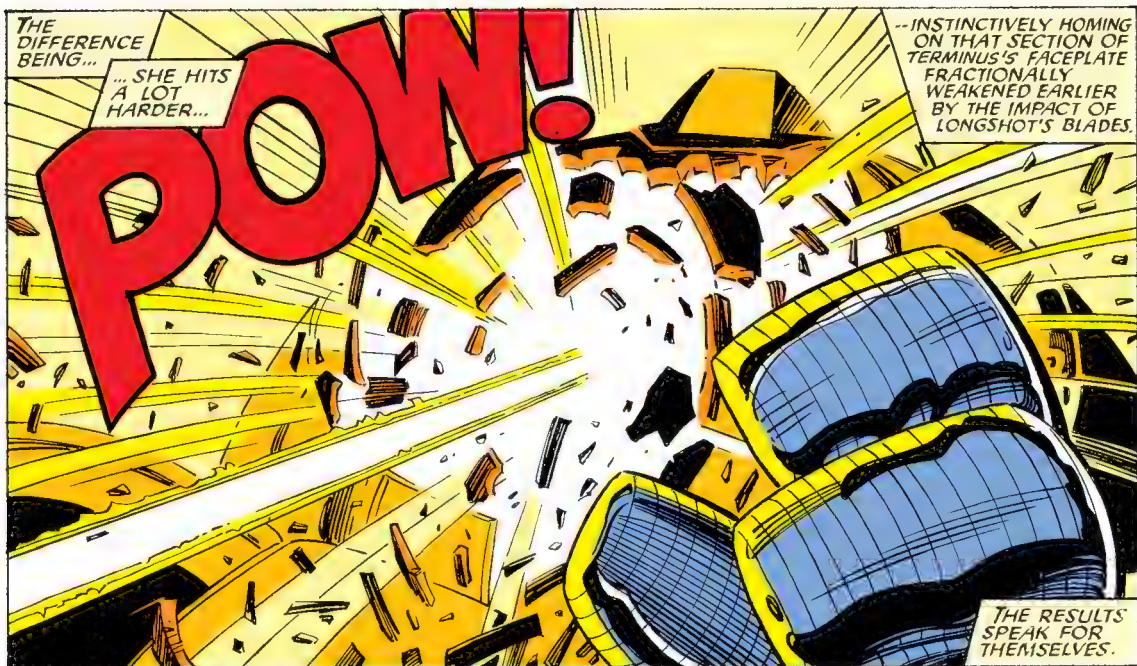
AH NEED A FAVOR, KIDDO--

--MAY AH PLEASE BORROW YOUR LUCK?

YOU MEAN-- USE YOUR POWER...

...TO TAKE AWAY MINE?





THE DIFFERENCE BEING...

... SHE HITS A LOT HARDER...

--INSTINCTIVELY HOMING ON THAT SECTION OF TERMINUS'S FACEPLATE FRACTIONALLY WEAKENED EARLIER BY THE IMPACT OF LONGSHOT'S BLADES.

THE RESULTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.



HOLY COW-- BETSY WAS RIGHT!

THE CRITTER'S A ROBOT!

THERE'S JUST THIS CLOWN UP INNA HEAD, RUNNIN' THINGS!



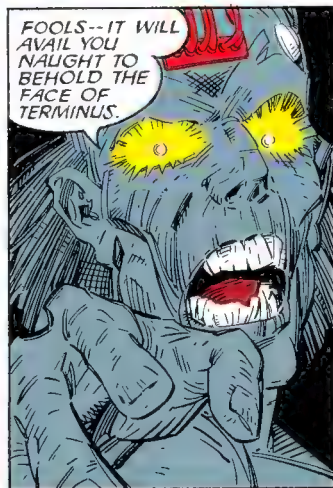
GAROKK!

CRIPES-- HE'S GOT MORE LIVES...

... THAN WE DO!

BUT HE LOVES THE SAVAGE LAND!

WHY WOULD HE WISH TO DESTROY IT?!



FOOLS-- IT WILL AVAIL YOU NAUGHT TO BEHOLD THE FACE OF TERMINUS.



WIZARD OF OZ WAS THE SAME THING, CHUMP.

HE WAS WRONG, TOO.

YOU CAN ONLY FIGHT US IF YOU'RE CONSCIOUS...



... AN' ONCE AH ABSORB YOUR POWER AN' PSYCHE...

... YOU WON'T BE!

Ahhh, SPIT--

-- HE'S LIKE A BOTTOMLESS WELL--

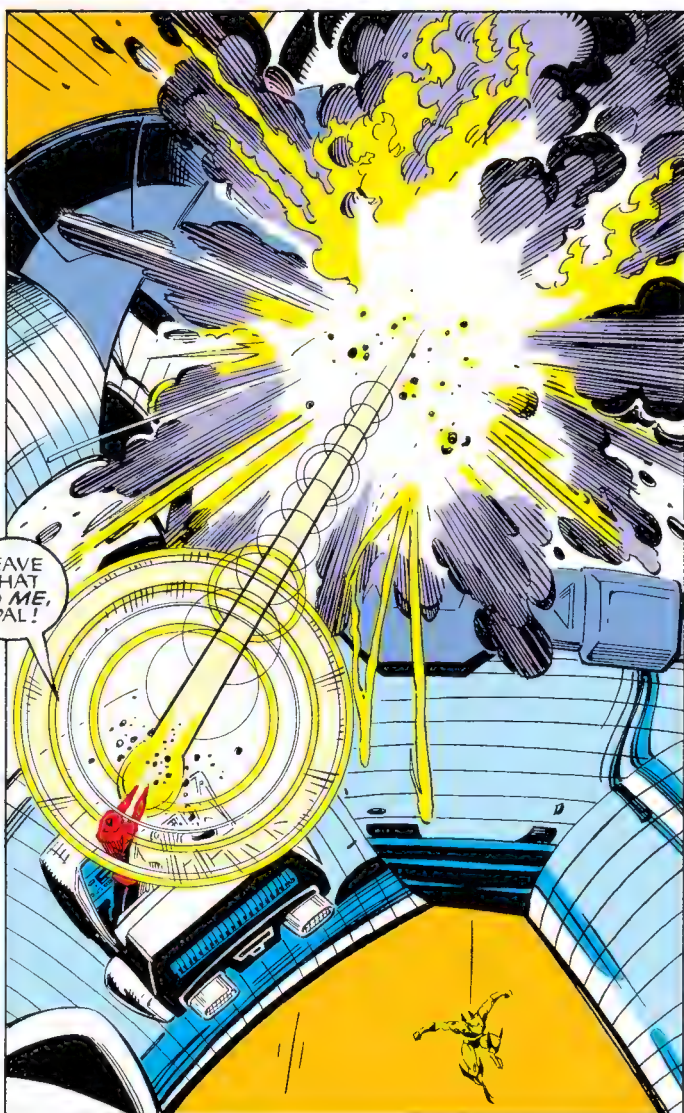
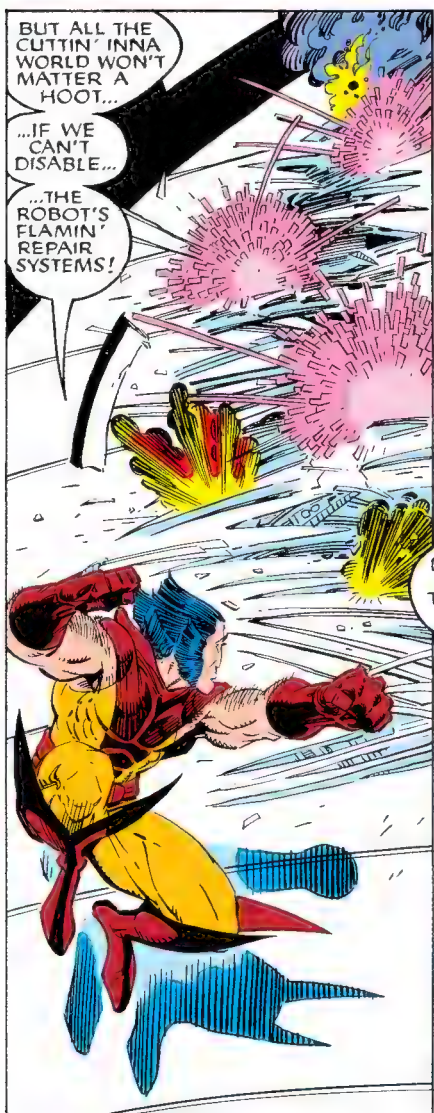
NO!

STOP!

-- DUNNO IF AH CAN TAKE HIM COMPLETELY--!

RELEASE ME, WOMAN!

NOT... A... CHANCE!



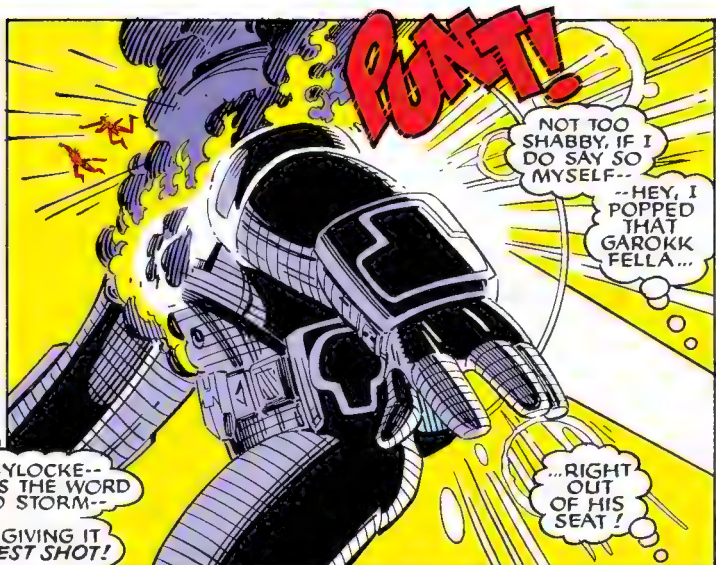


YOUR TURN,
ALISON--

--A PHOTON
BLAST--
--AT FULL
STRENGTH!

PSYLOCKE--
PASS THE WORD
TO STORM--

--I'M GIVING IT
MY BEST SHOT!



NOT TOO
SHABBY, IF I
DO SAY SO
MYSELF--

--HEY, I
POPPED
THAT
GAROKK
FELLA...

...RIGHT
OUT
OF HIS
SEAT!



ONCE, O MAN,
I FAILED TO
SAVE YOU. *

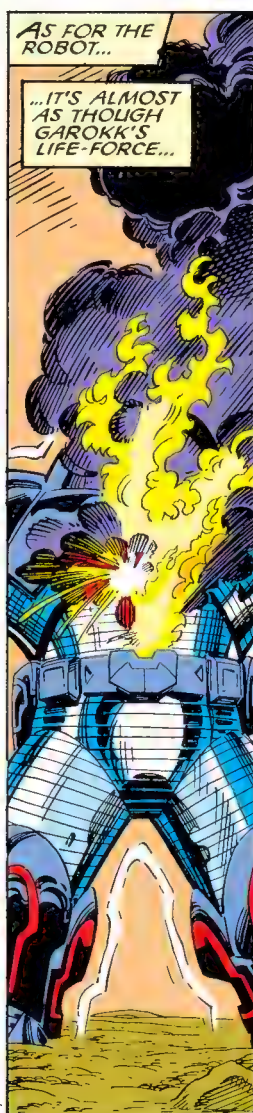
I THANK
THE FATES
I HAVE BEEN
GIVEN ANOTHER
CHANCE...

...AND NOT
BEEN FOUND
WANTING.

I
PRAY
YOU DO
THE
SAME.

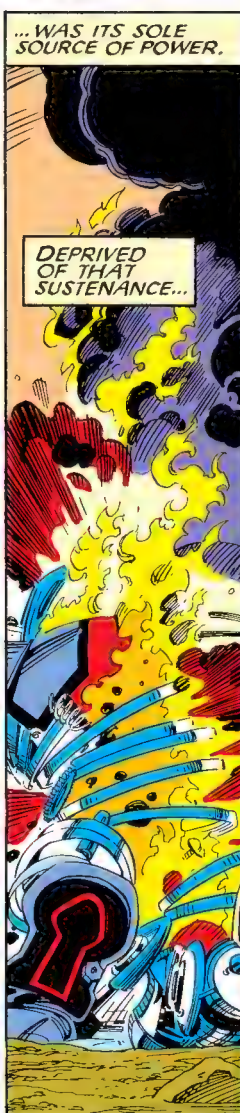
*WAAAY BACK
IN X-MEN #116
(OR CLASSIC
X-MEN #22)--Bob.

I HAVE
YOU,
ROGUE.



AS FOR THE
ROBOT...

...IT'S ALMOST
AS THOUGH
GAROKK'S
LIFE-FORCE...



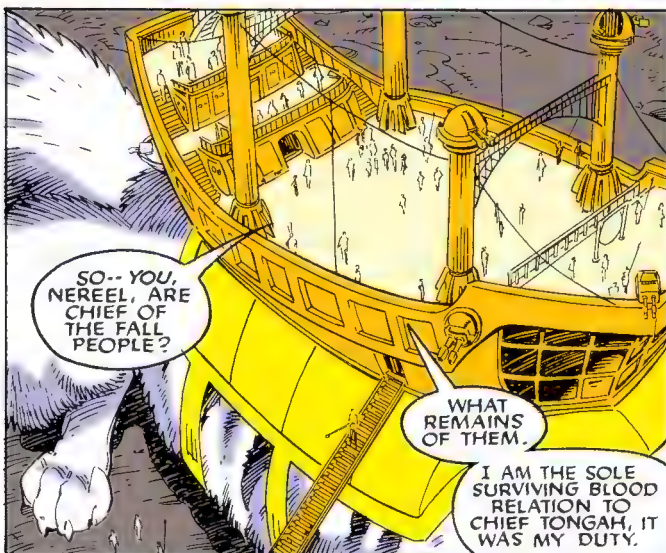
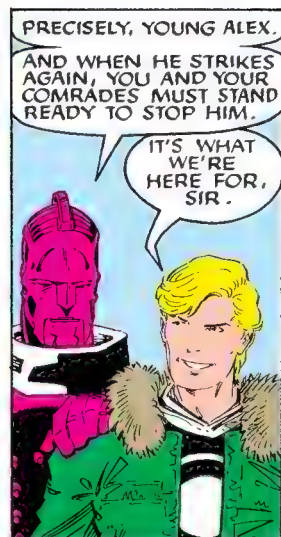
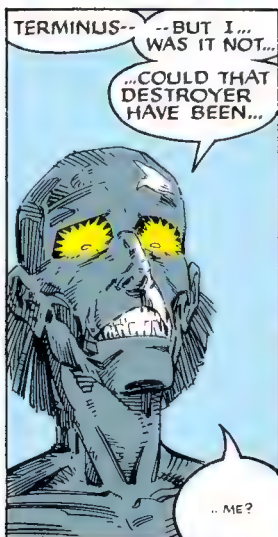
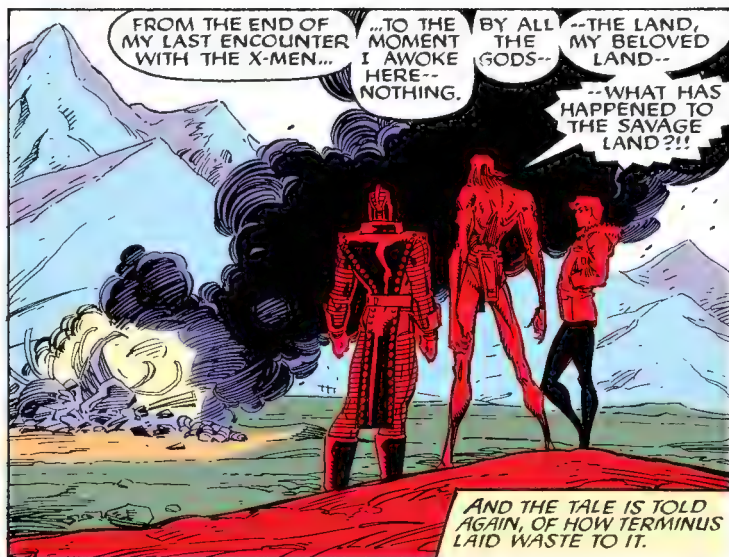
...WAS ITS SOLE
SOURCE OF POWER.

DEPRIVED
OF THAT
SUSTENANCE...



...THE MONSTROUS
JUGGERNAUT SIMPLY,
SPEEDILY...

...CEASES
TO EXIST.





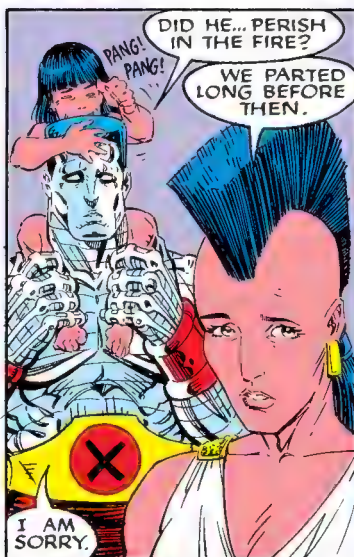
PANG!

MAM, HIS HAIR'S SOLID!

LISTEN TO THE NOISE I CAN MAKE WITH IT!

HE'S WONDERFUL.

HE TAKES AFTER HIS FATHER.



DID HE... PERISH IN THE FIRE?

WE PARTED LONG BEFORE THEN.

I AM SORRY.

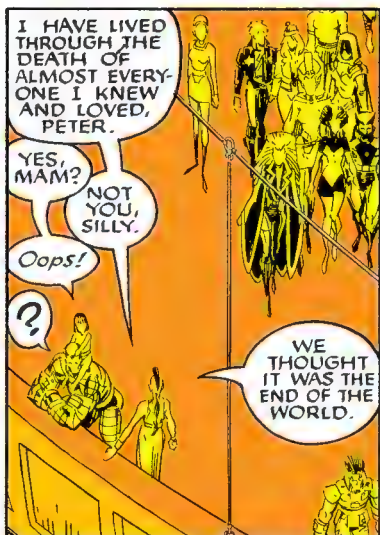


IT DOESN'T MAKE ME CARE FOR HIM-- OR CHERISH OUR CHILD-- ANY THE LESS.

PERHAPS HE WILL RETURN?

THEN HE WILL BE WELCOMED.

I CANNOT GET OVER HOW MUCH OLDER YOU SEEM, THAN THE GIRL I REMEMBER.



I HAVE LIVED THROUGH THE DEATH OF ALMOST EVERYONE I KNEW AND LOVED, PETER.

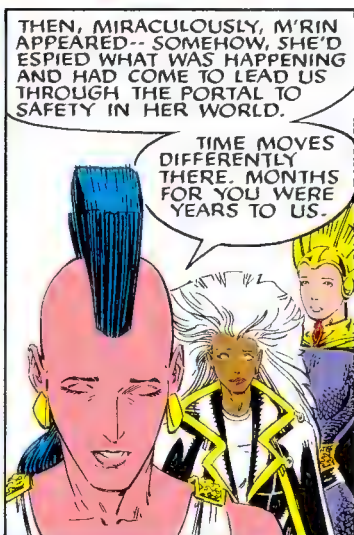
YES, MAM?

NOT YOU, SILLY.

Oops!

?

WE THOUGHT IT WAS THE END OF THE WORLD.



THEN, MIRACULOUSLY, M'RIN APPEARED-- SOMEHOW, SHE'D ESPIED WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND HAD COME TO LEAD US THROUGH THE PORTAL TO SAFETY IN HER WORLD.

TIME MOVES DIFFERENTLY THERE. MONTHS FOR YOU WERE YEARS TO US.



M'RIN MADE ROOM FOR US AT HER TABLE-- WE OWE HER A DEBT BEYOND ALL PRICE-- BUT WHILE WE HAVE PROSPERED WITH HER AND LEARNED TO BE HAPPY...

...IT IS NOT, CAN NEVER BE...

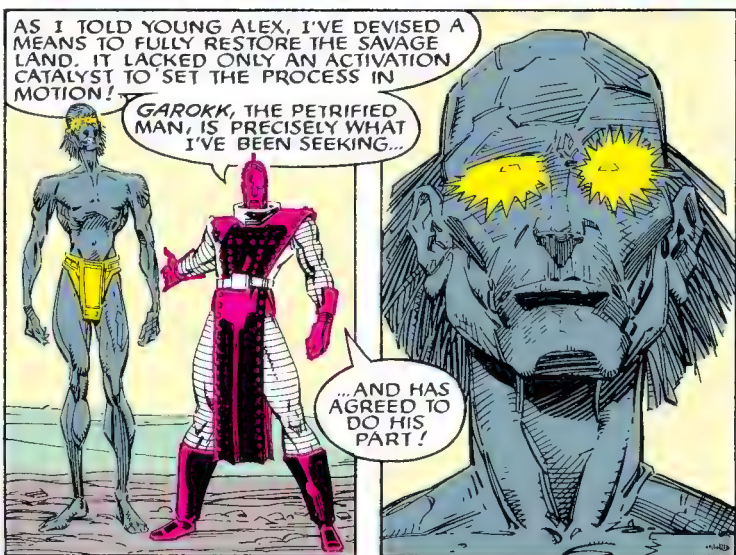
...WHAT THIS WAS...

...OUR HOME.



DO NOT DESPAIR, NEREEL OF THE FALL PEOPLE--

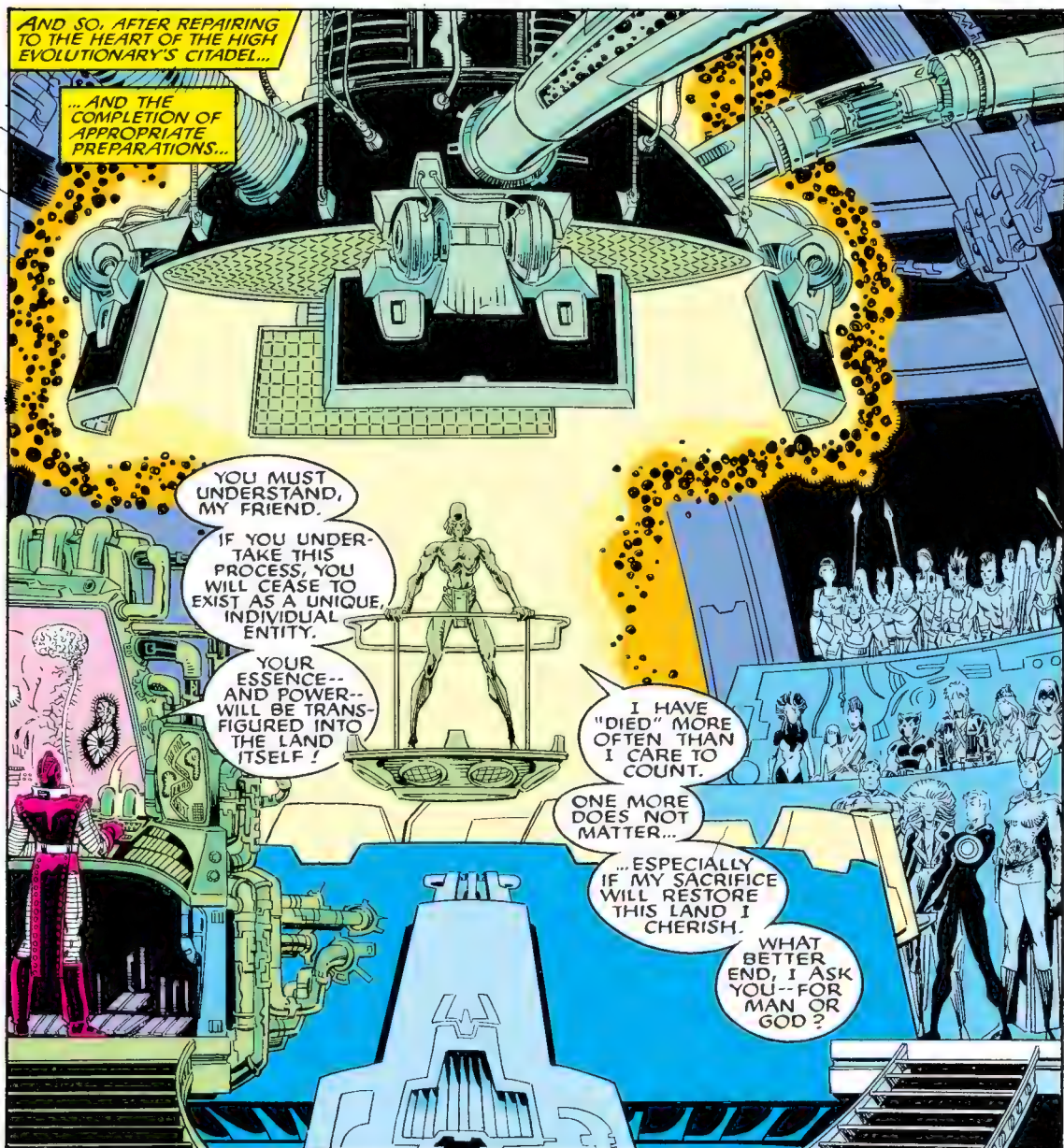
--WHAT WAS ONCE MAY YET BE AGAIN!



AS I TOLD YOUNG ALEX, I'VE DEVISED A MEANS TO FULLY RESTORE THE SAVAGE LAND. IT LACKED ONLY AN ACTIVATION CATALYST TO SET THE PROCESS IN MOTION!

GAROKK, THE PETRIFIED MAN, IS PRECISELY WHAT I'VE BEEN SEEKING...

...AND HAS AGREED TO DO HIS PART!

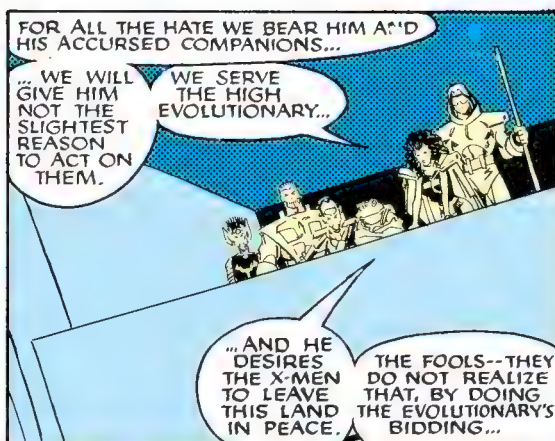




ZALADANE--

--THE SMALL ONE, THE BERSERKER, WOLVERINE, HE SUSPECTS?

LET HIM.



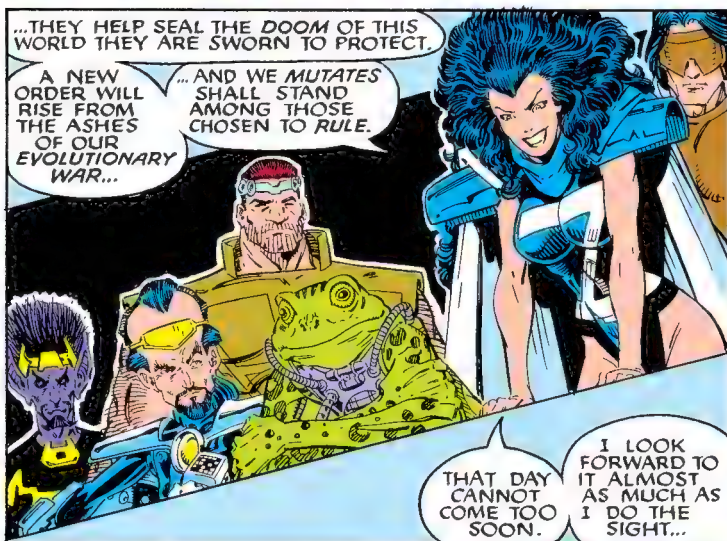
FOR ALL THE HATE WE BEAR HIM AND HIS ACCURSED COMPANIONS...

... WE WILL GIVE HIM NOT THE SLIGHTEST REASON TO ACT ON THEM.

WE SERVE THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY...

... AND HE DESIRES THE X-MEN TO LEAVE THIS LAND IN PEACE.

THE FOOLS--THEY DO NOT REALIZE THAT, BY DOING THE EVOLUTIONARY'S BIDDING...



...THEY HELP SEAL THE DOOM OF THIS WORLD THEY ARE SWORN TO PROTECT.

A NEW ORDER WILL RISE FROM THE ASHES OF OUR EVOLUTIONARY WAR...

... AND WE MUTATES SHALL STAND AMONG THOSE CHOSEN TO RULE.

THAT DAY CANNOT COME TOO SOON.

I LOOK FORWARD TO IT ALMOST AS MUCH AS I DO THE SIGHT...



... OF STORM'S HEAD...

... ADORNING A PIKE BESIDE MY THRONE!

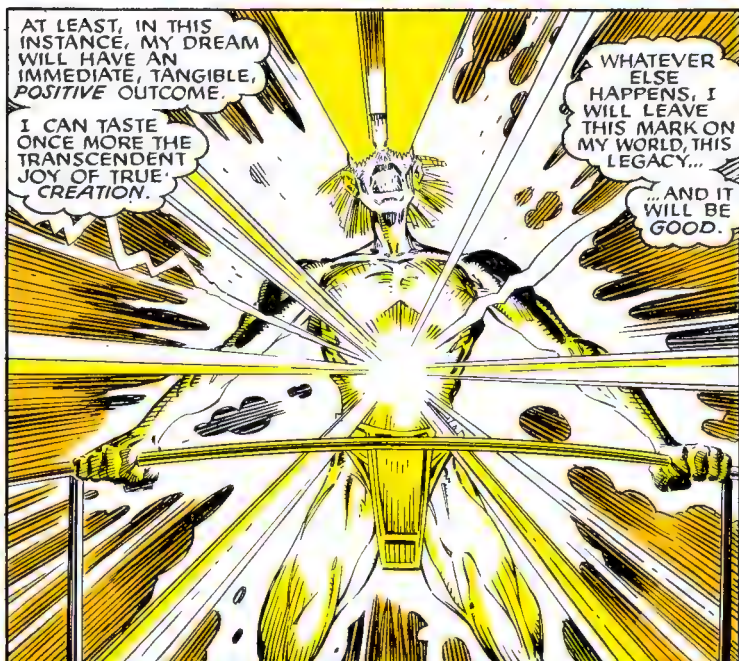


DREAM ON, ZALADANE, IN BLISSFUL IGNORANCE OF THE FACT...

...THAT YOUR DREAMS, LIKE YOUR FATE, ARE NOT MINE.

I'VE LITTLE LIKING FOR MANY OF THE TOOLS I AM FORCED TO USE...

... BUT A MAN MUST MAKE DO WITH WHAT HE HAS.

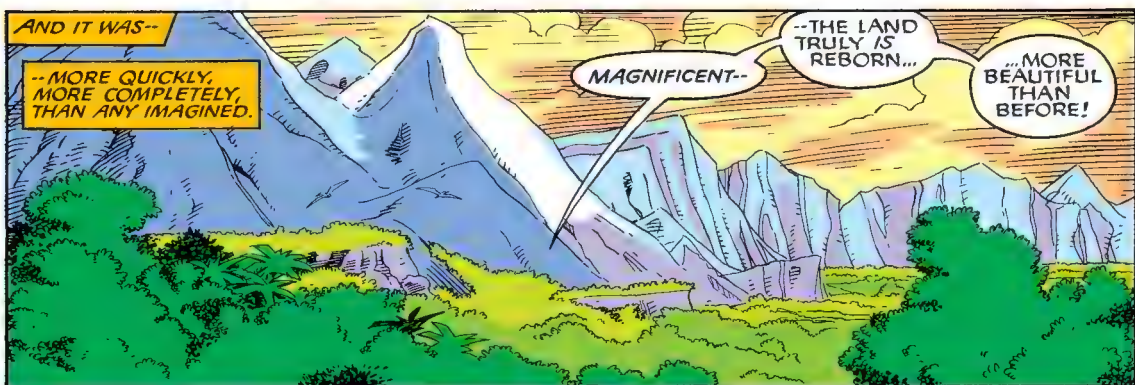


AT LEAST, IN THIS INSTANCE, MY DREAM WILL HAVE AN IMMEDIATE, TANGIBLE, POSITIVE OUTCOME.

I CAN TASTE ONCE MORE THE TRANSCENDENT JOY OF TRUE CREATION.

WHATEVER ELSE HAPPENS, I WILL LEAVE THIS MARK ON MY WORLD, THIS LEGACY...

... AND IT WILL BE GOOD.



AND IT WAS--

--MORE QUICKLY,
MORE COMPLETELY,
THAN ANY IMAGINED.

MAGNIFICENT--

--THE LAND
TRULY IS
REBORN...

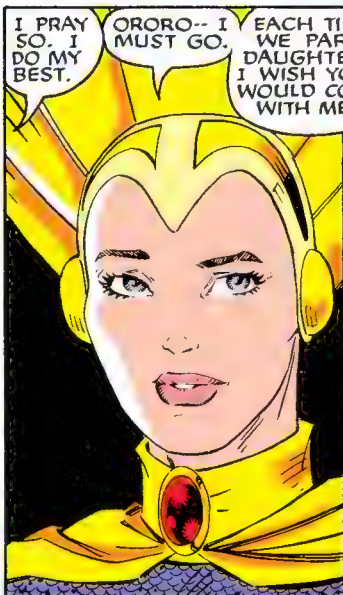
...MORE
BEAUTIFUL
THAN
BEFORE!



AT LAST, I THINK,
GAROKK HAS FOUND THE
PURPOSE AND PEACE
HE SOUGHT FOR SO
LONG.

AND YOU,
CHILD OF
MY HEART...

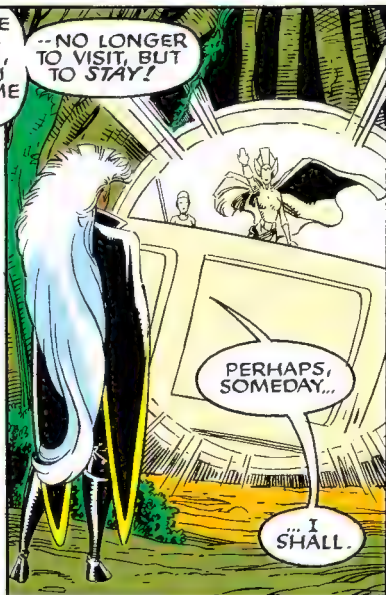
...CAN
YOU
SAY
THE
SAME?



I PRAY
SO. I
DO MY
BEST.

ORORO-- I
MUST GO.

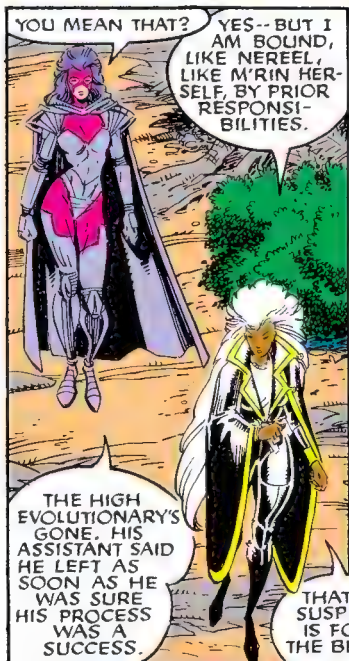
EACH TIME
WE PART,
DAUGHTER,
I WISH YOU
WOULD COME
WITH ME--



--NO LONGER
TO VISIT, BUT
TO STAY!

PERHAPS,
SOMEDAY...

... I
SHALL.

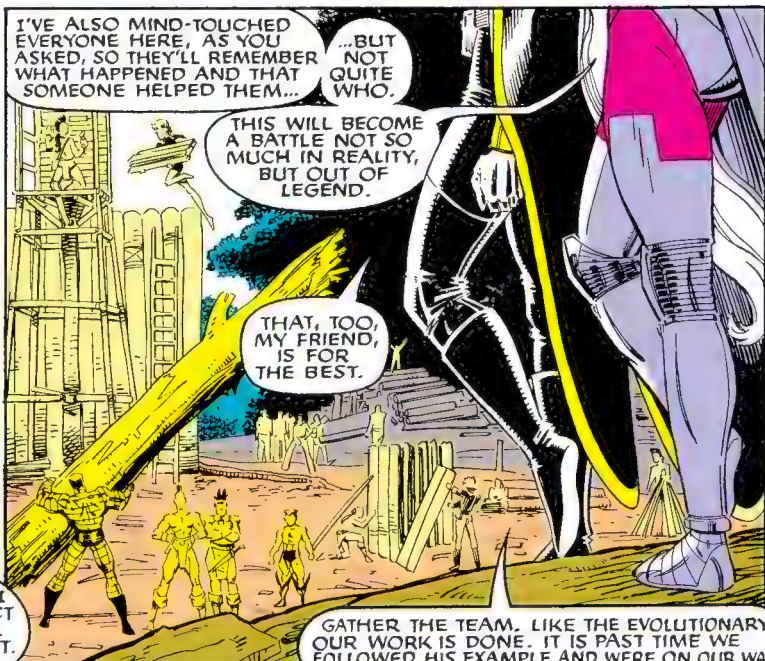


YOU MEAN THAT?

YES-- BUT I
AM BOUND,
LIKE NEREEL,
LIKE M'RIN HER-
SELF, BY PRIOR
RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE HIGH
EVOLUTIONARY'S
GONE. HIS
ASSISTANT SAID
HE LEFT AS
SOON AS HE
WAS SURE
HIS PROCESS
WAS A
SUCCESS.

THAT, I
SUSPECT
IS FOR
THE BEST.



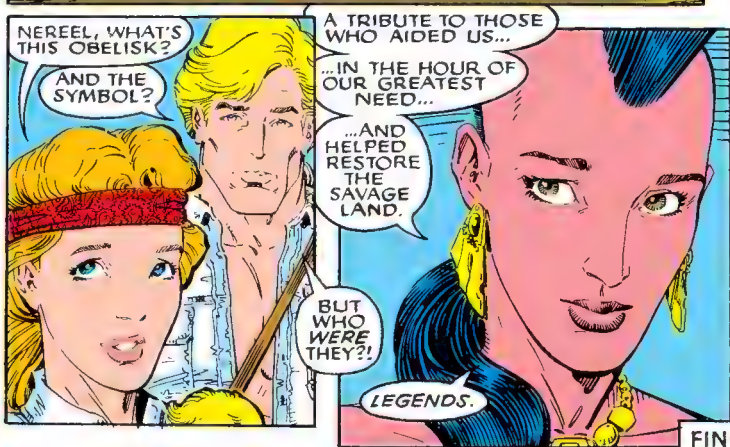
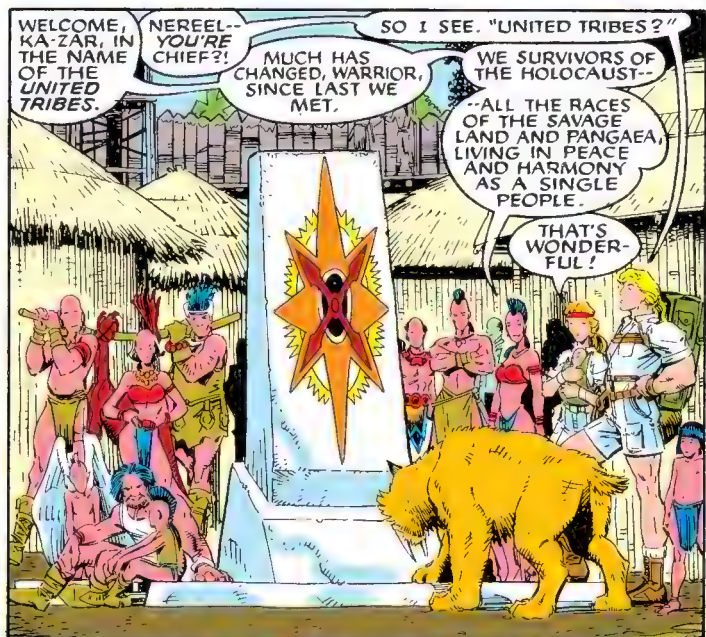
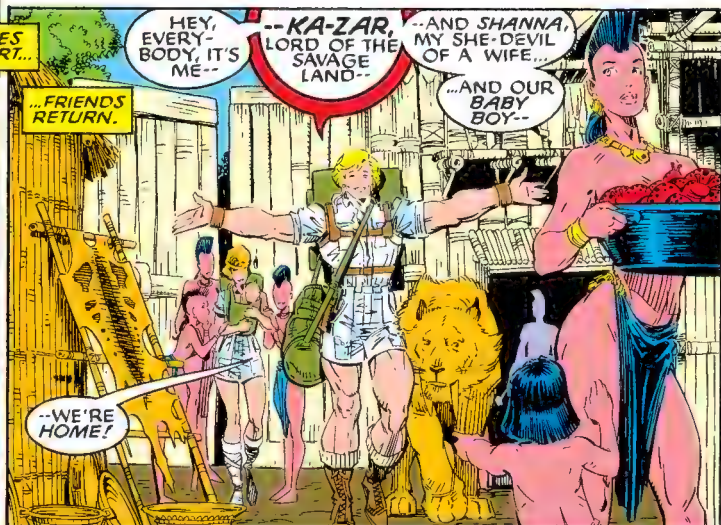
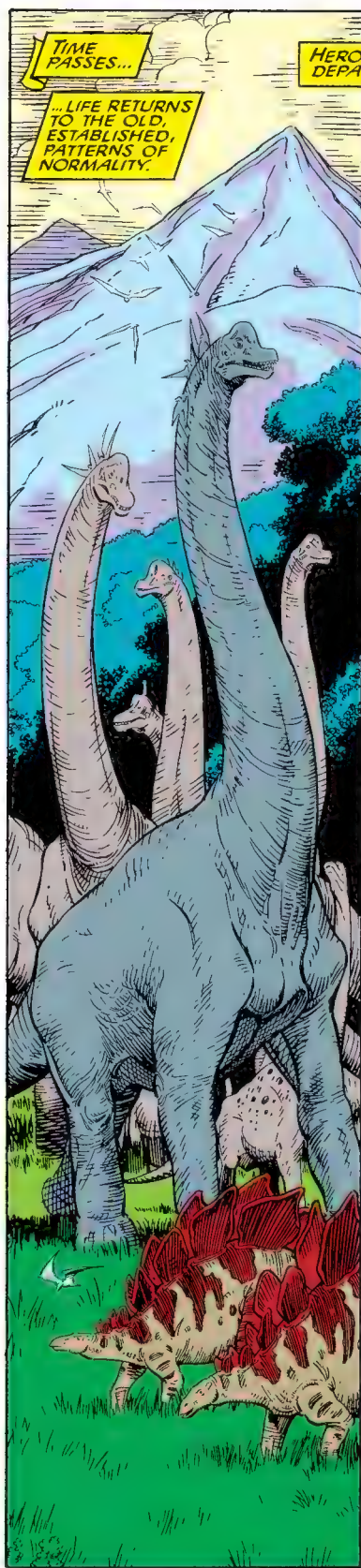
I'VE ALSO MIND-TOUCHED
EVERYONE HERE, AS YOU
ASKED, SO THEY'LL REMEMBER
WHAT HAPPENED AND THAT
SOMEONE HELPED THEM...

...BUT
NOT
QUITE
WHO.

THIS WILL BECOME
A BATTLE NOT SO
MUCH IN REALITY,
BUT OUT OF
LEGEND.

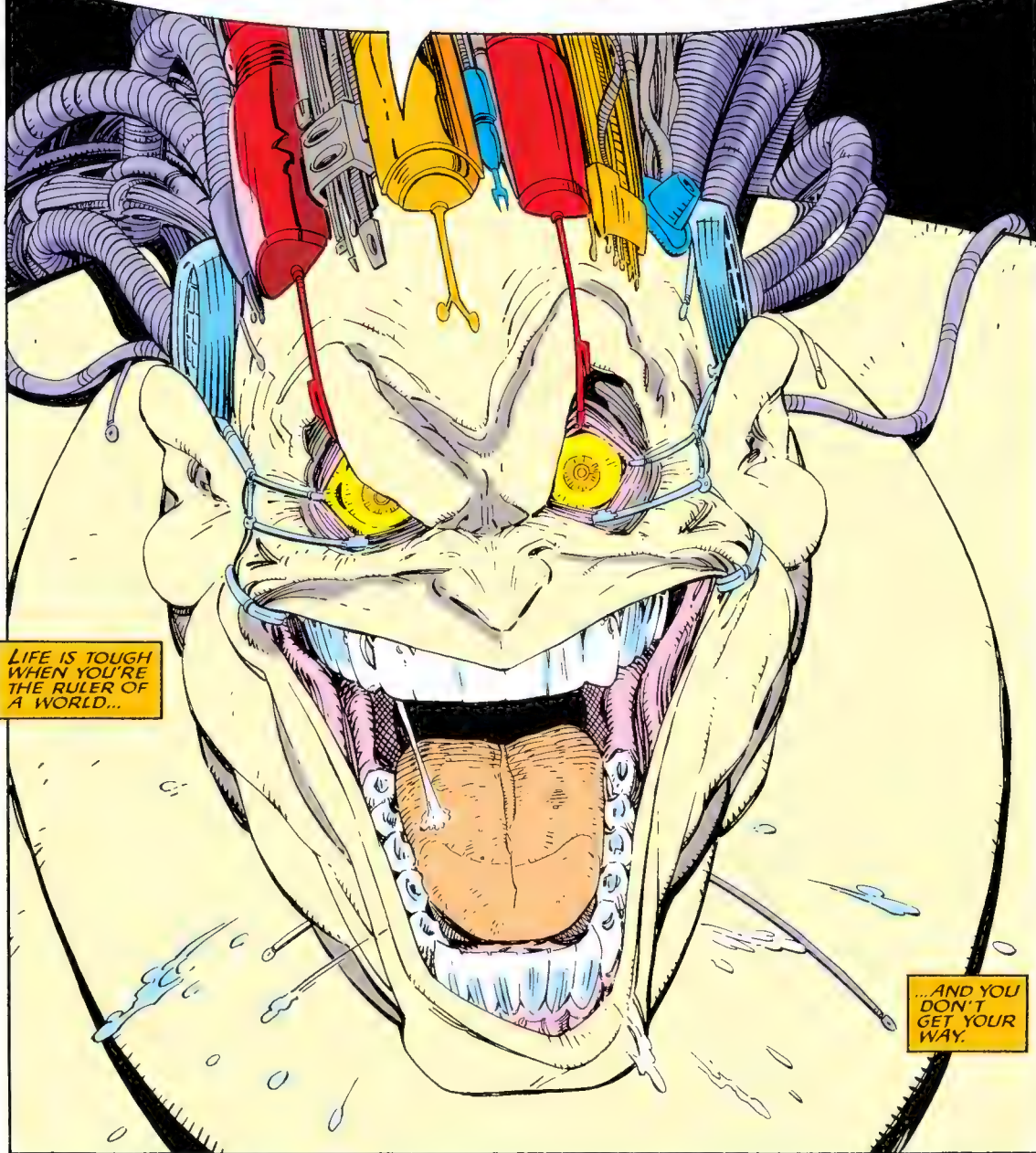
THAT, TOO,
MY FRIEND,
IS FOR
THE BEST.

GATHER THE TEAM. LIKE THE EVOLUTIONARY,
OUR WORK IS DONE. IT IS PAST TIME WE
FOLLOWED HIS EXAMPLE AND WERE ON OUR WAY.



AND NOW--
SOMETHING
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT...

I WANT MY X-MEN!



LIFE IS TOUGH
WHEN YOU'RE
THE RULER OF
A WORLD...

...AND YOU
DON'T
GET YOUR
WAY.

MOJO'S
A CASE IN
POINT...

THIS
ENTITY--

AUGH!

--WHO GAVE HIM LEAVE TO
PLAY WITH MY TOYS--

AUGH!

--HE
TRIES
TO KILL
THEM...

AUGH!

...BUT THEN
THEY DO
WHAT THEY'RE
SUPPOSED
TO DO, GOOD
LITTLE
HEROES...

AUGH!

...THEY
KILL HIM
FIRST...

AUGH!

...BUT
THEN
THAT
FOOL
FORGE--

AUGH!

--WHO
WROTE HIM
INTO THE
SCRIPT?--

AUGH!

--TELLS
THEM THAT
TO FINISH
THE JOB...

AUGH!

...THEY
HAVE TO
DIE, TOO!

AUGH!

SO THEY
AGREE?

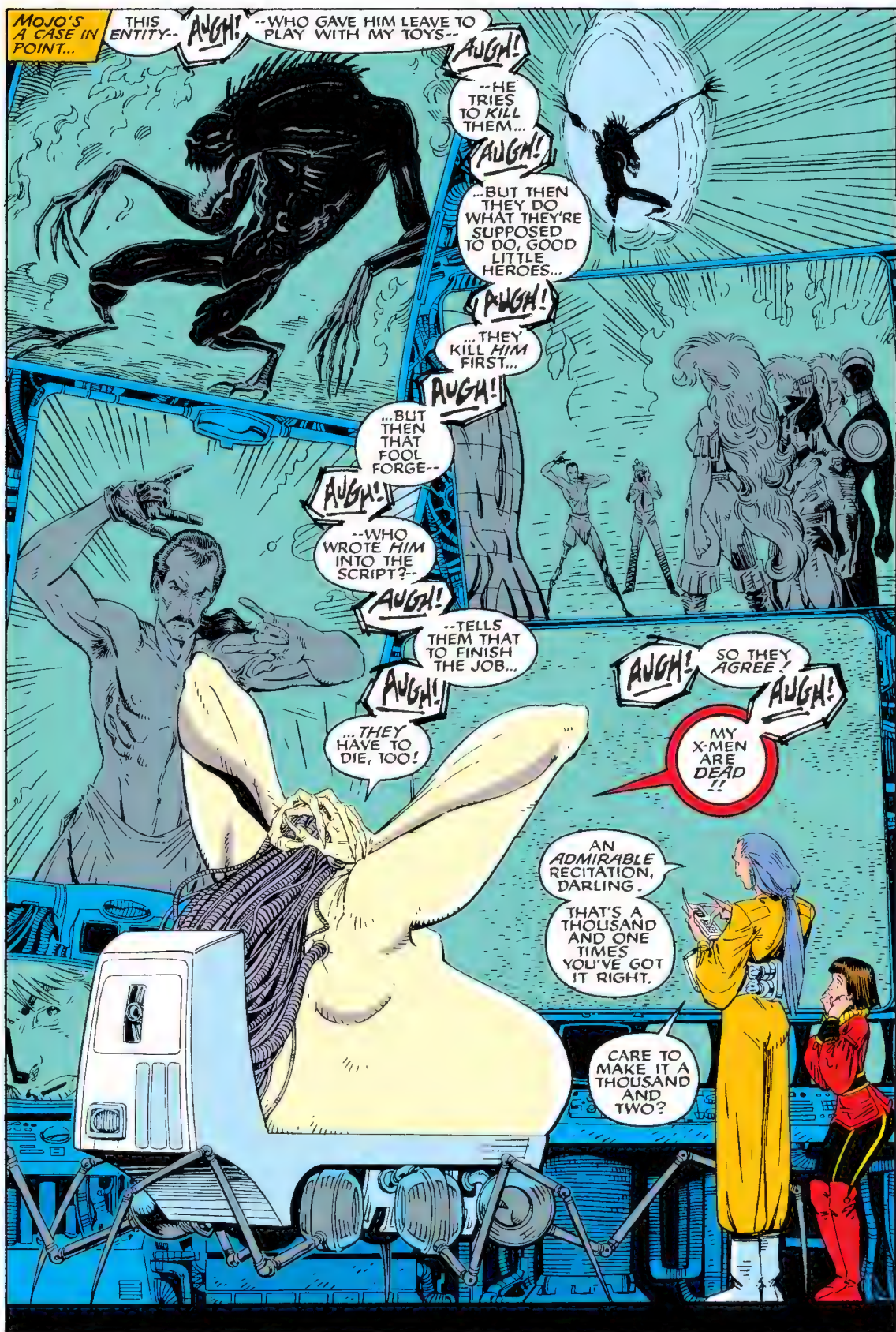
AUGH!

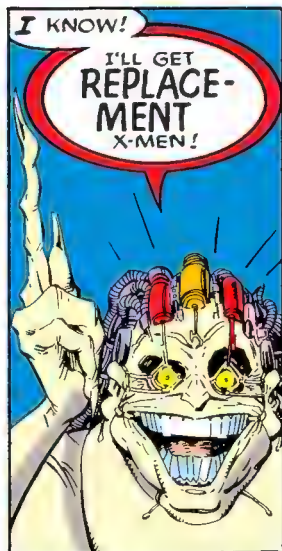
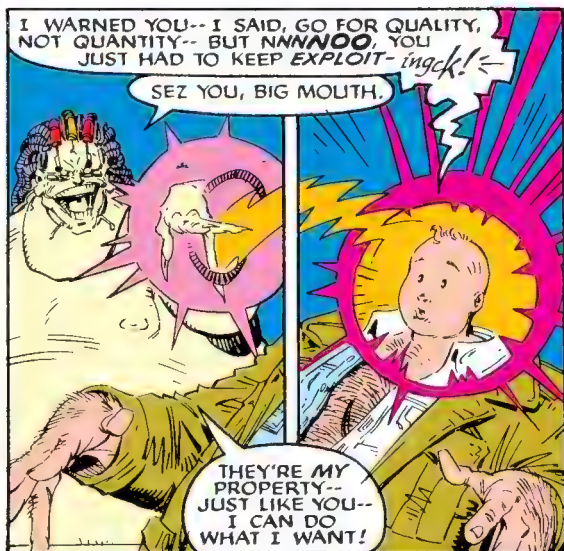
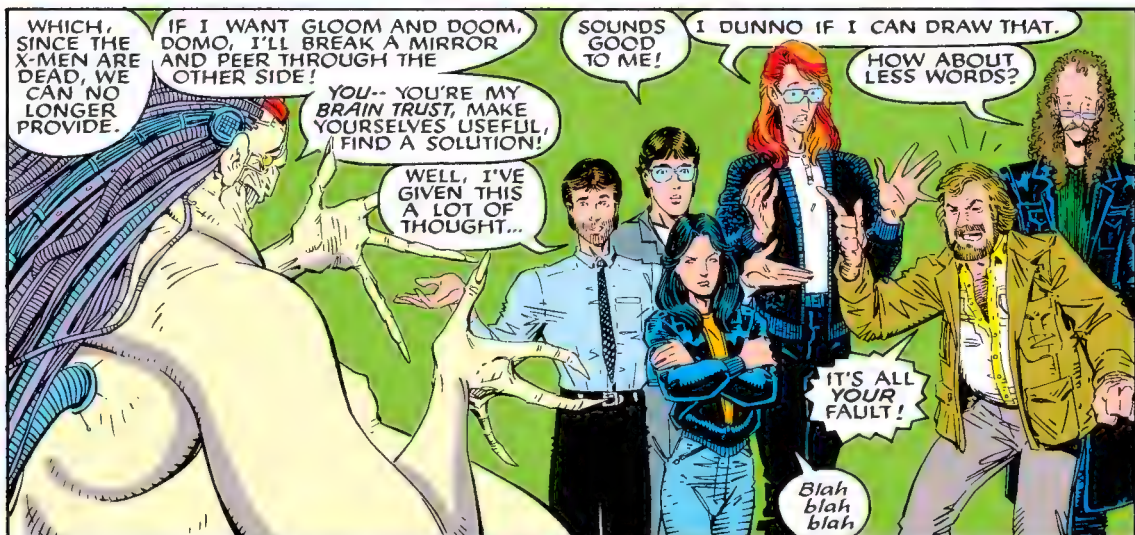
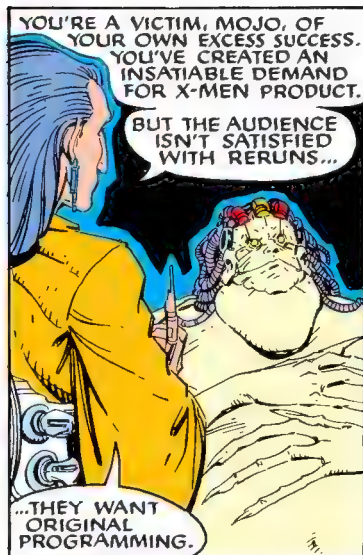
MY
X-MEN
ARE
DEAD
!!

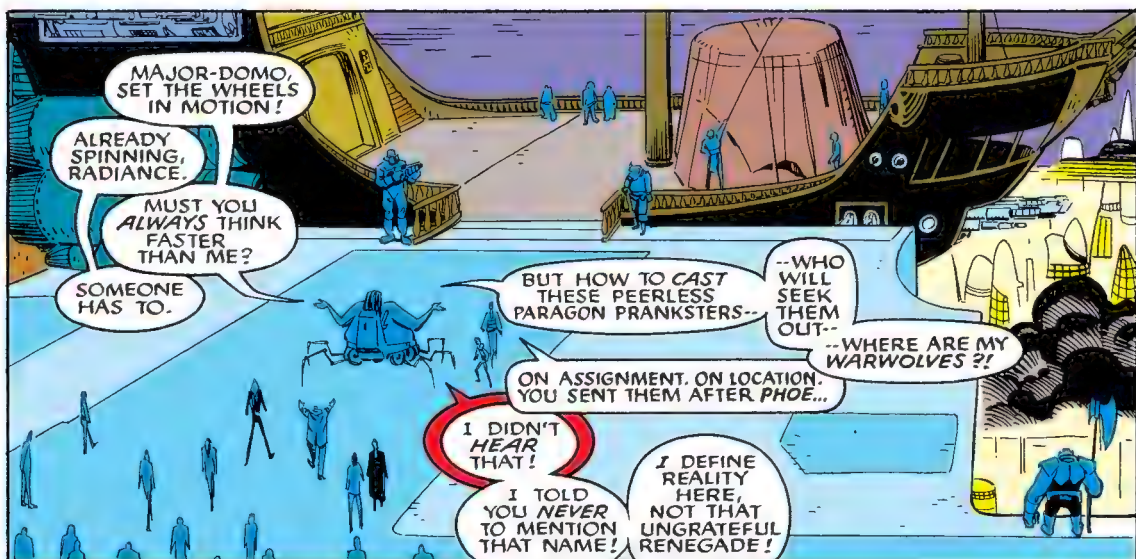
AN
ADMIRABLE
RECITATION,
DARLING.

THAT'S A
THOUSAND
AND ONE
TIMES
YOU'VE GOT
IT RIGHT.

CARE TO
MAKE IT A
THOUSAND
AND
TWO?







MAJOR-DOMO,
SET THE WHEELS
IN MOTION!

ALREADY
SPINNING,
RADIANCE.

MUST YOU
ALWAYS THINK
FASTER
THAN ME?

SOMEONE
HAS TO.

BUT HOW TO CAST
THESE PEERLESS
PARAGON PRANKSTERS--

--WHO
WILL
SEEK
THEM
OUT--

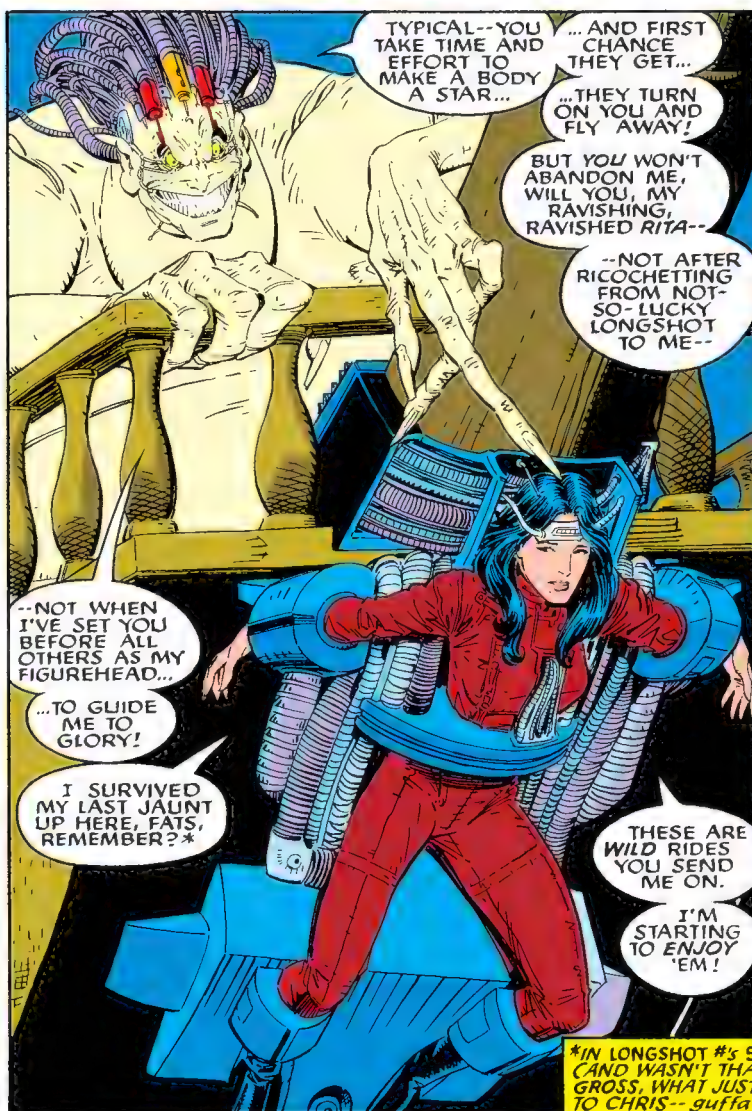
--WHERE ARE MY
WARWOLVES ?!

ON ASSIGNMENT, ON LOCATION,
YOU SENT THEM AFTER PHOE...

I DIDN'T
HEAR
THAT!

I TOLD
YOU NEVER
TO MENTION
THAT NAME!

I DEFINE
REALITY
HERE,
NOT THAT
UNGRATEFUL
RENEGADE!



TYPICAL--YOU
TAKE TIME AND
EFFORT TO
MAKE A BODY
A STAR...

...AND FIRST
CHANCE
THEY GET...
...THEY TURN
ON YOU AND
FLY AWAY!

BUT YOU WON'T
ABANDON ME,
WILL YOU, MY
RAVISHING,
RAVISHED RITA--

--NOT AFTER
RICOCHETTING
FROM NOT-
SO-LUCKY
LONGSHOT
TO ME--

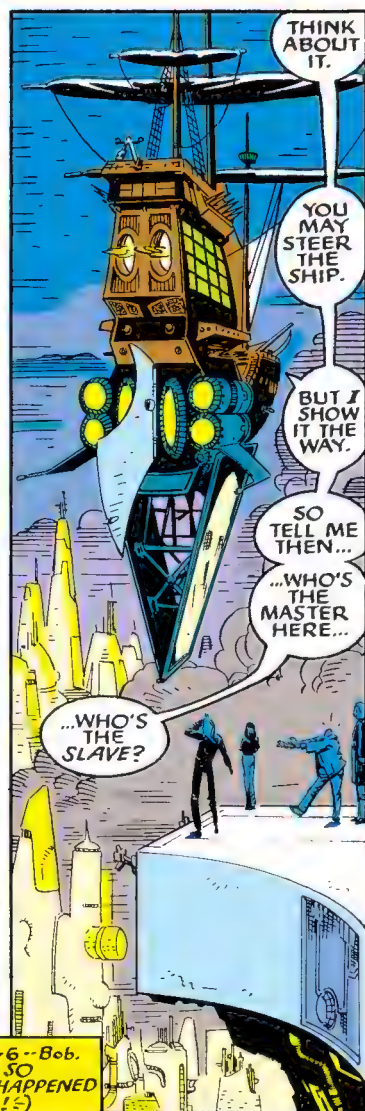
--NOT WHEN
I'VE SET YOU
BEFORE ALL
OTHERS AS MY
FIGUREHEAD...

...TO GUIDE
ME TO
GLORY!

I SURVIVED
MY LAST JAUNT
UP HERE, FATS,
REMEMBER?*

THESE ARE
WILD RIDES
YOU SEND
ME ON.

I'M
STARTING
TO ENJOY
'EM!



THINK
ABOUT
IT.

YOU
MAY
STEER
THE
SHIP.

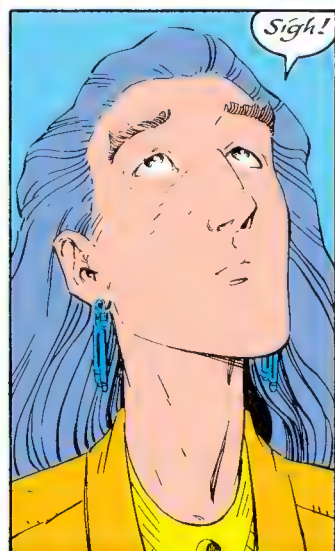
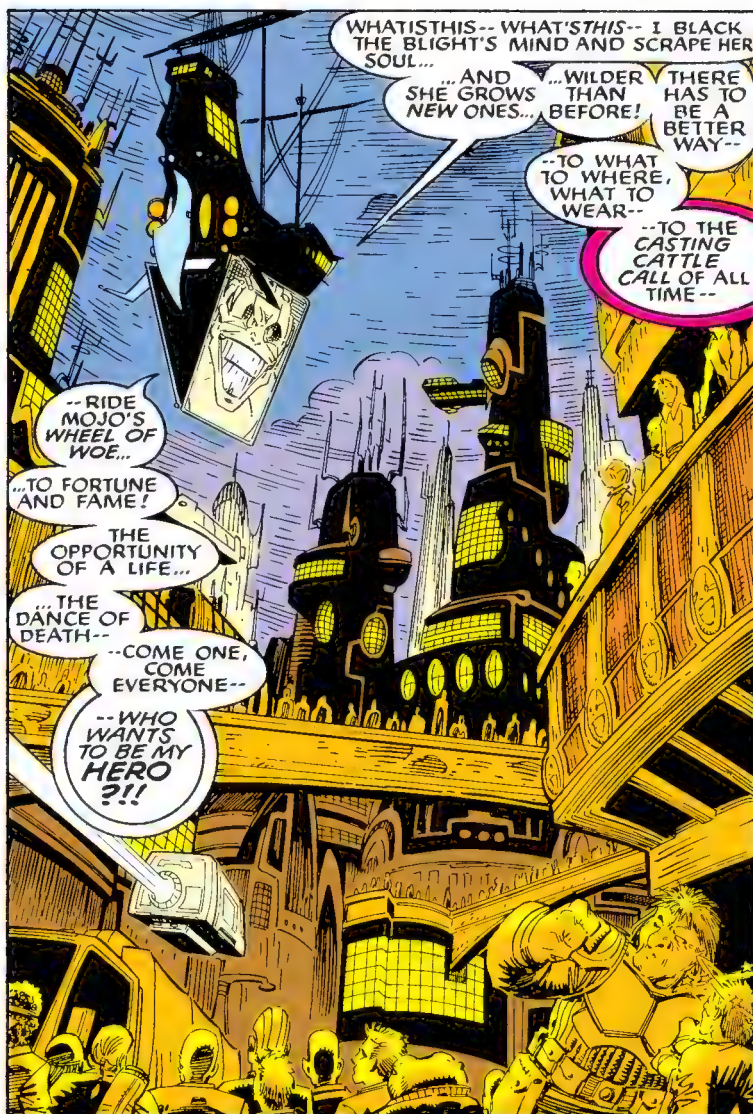
BUT I
SHOW
IT THE
WAY.

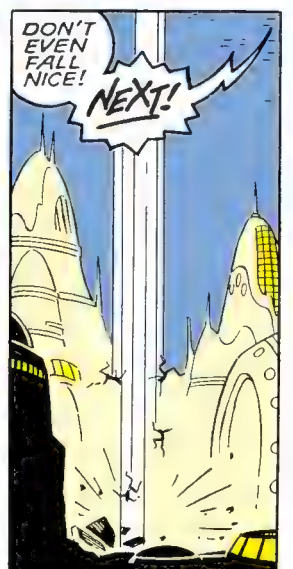
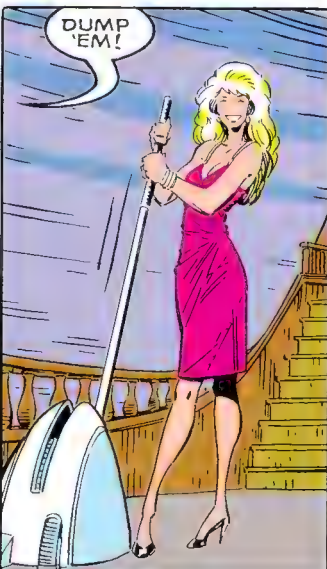
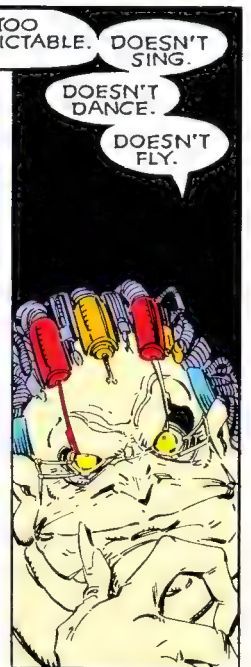
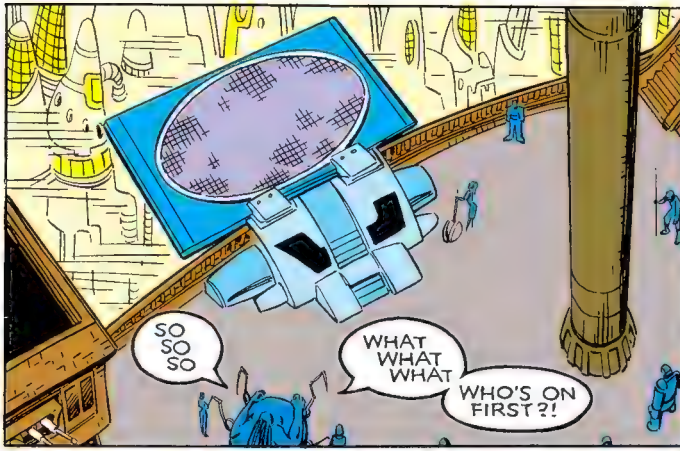
SO
TELL ME
THEN...

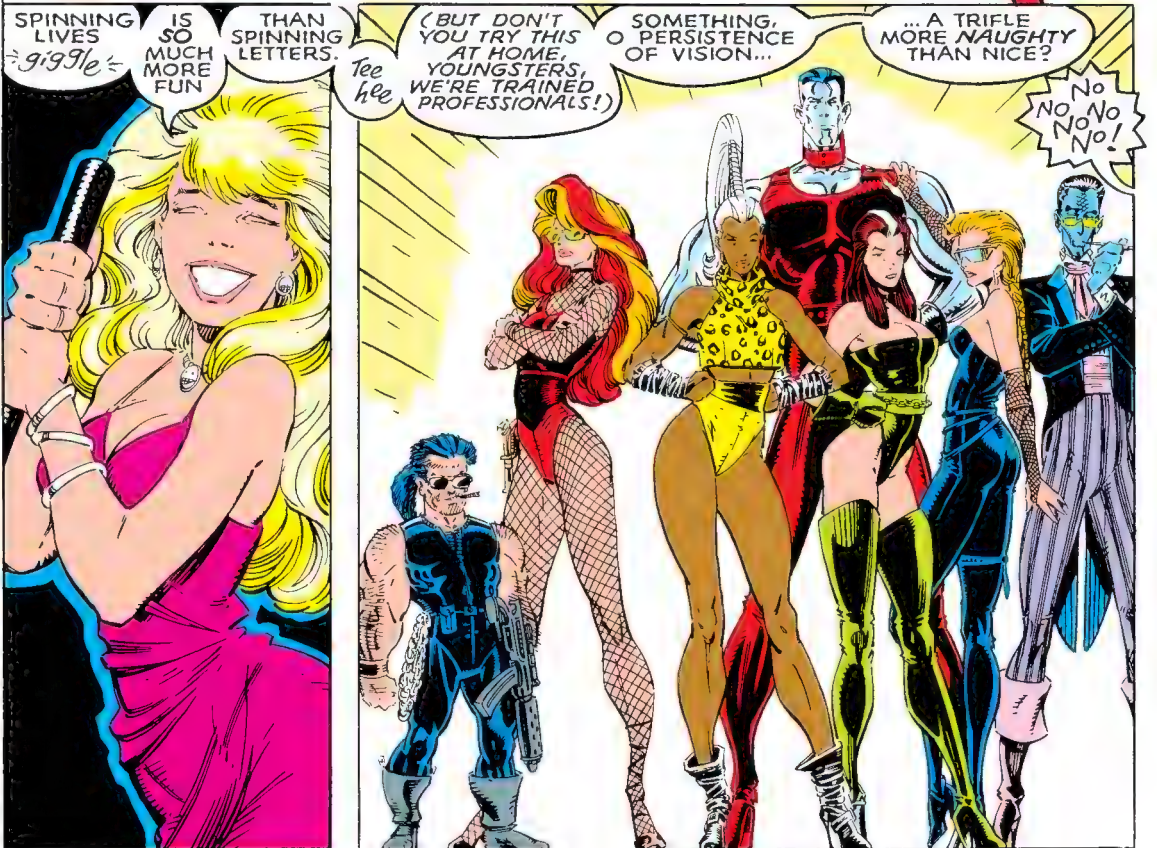
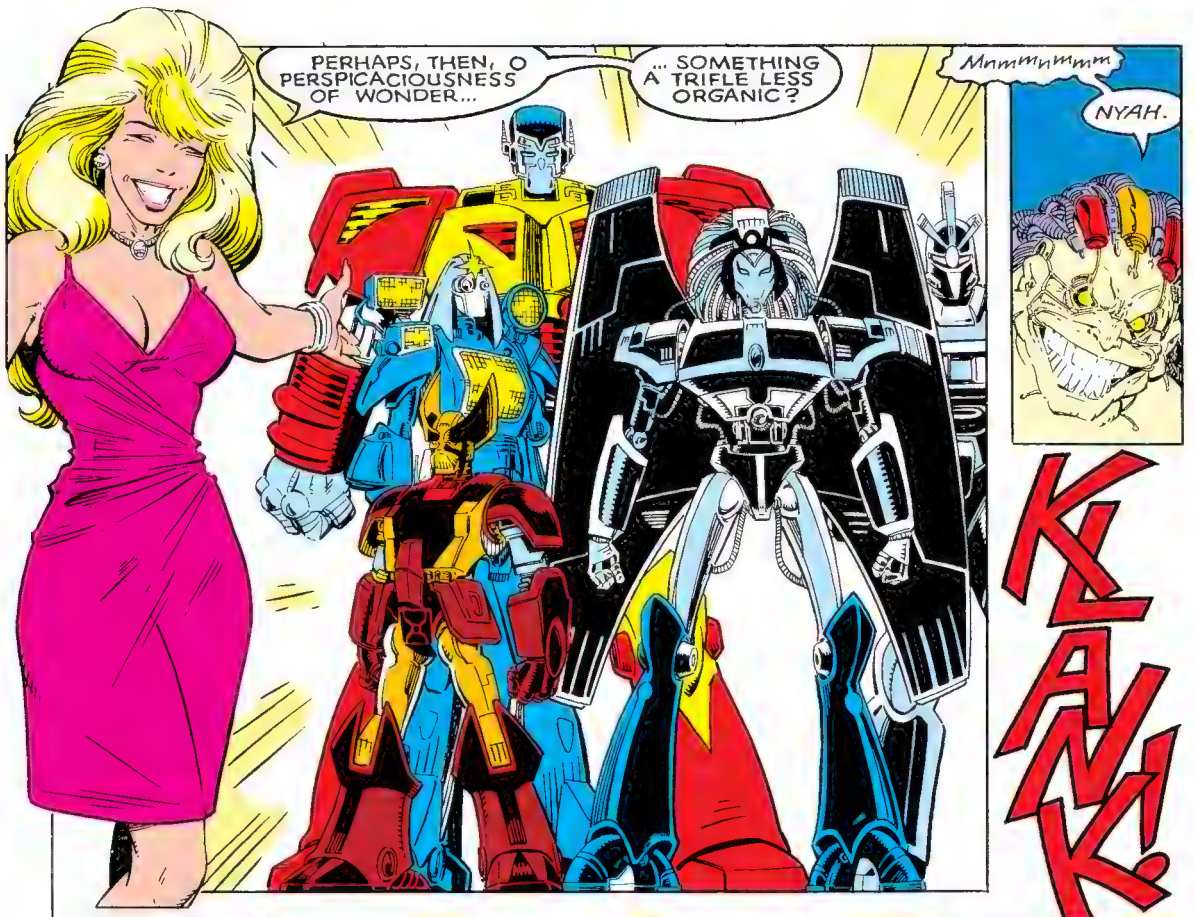
...WHO'S
THE
MASTER
HERE...

...WHO'S
THE
SLAVE?

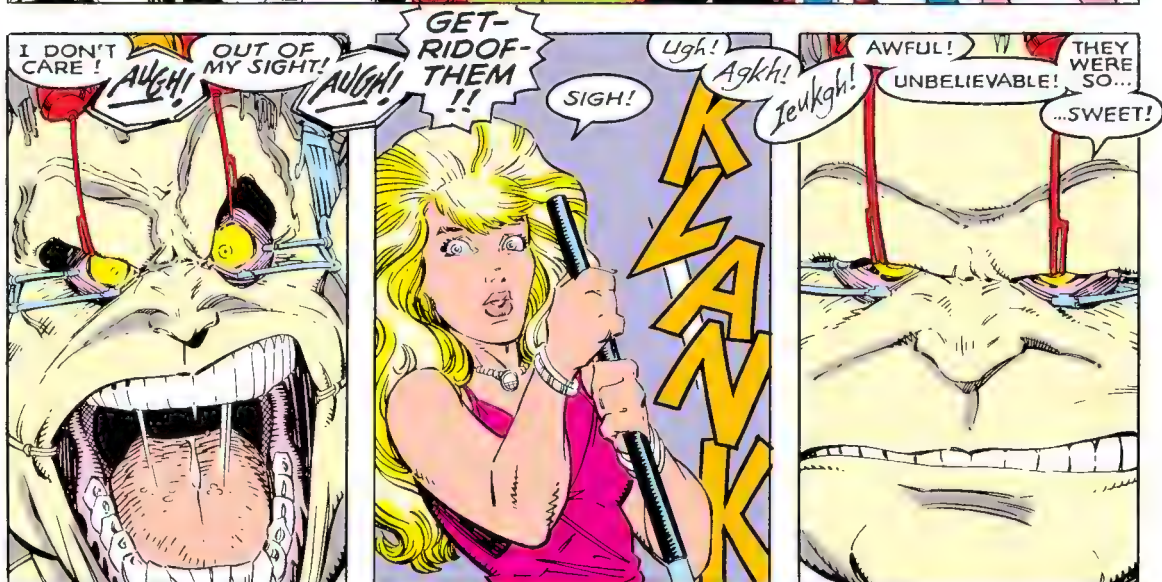
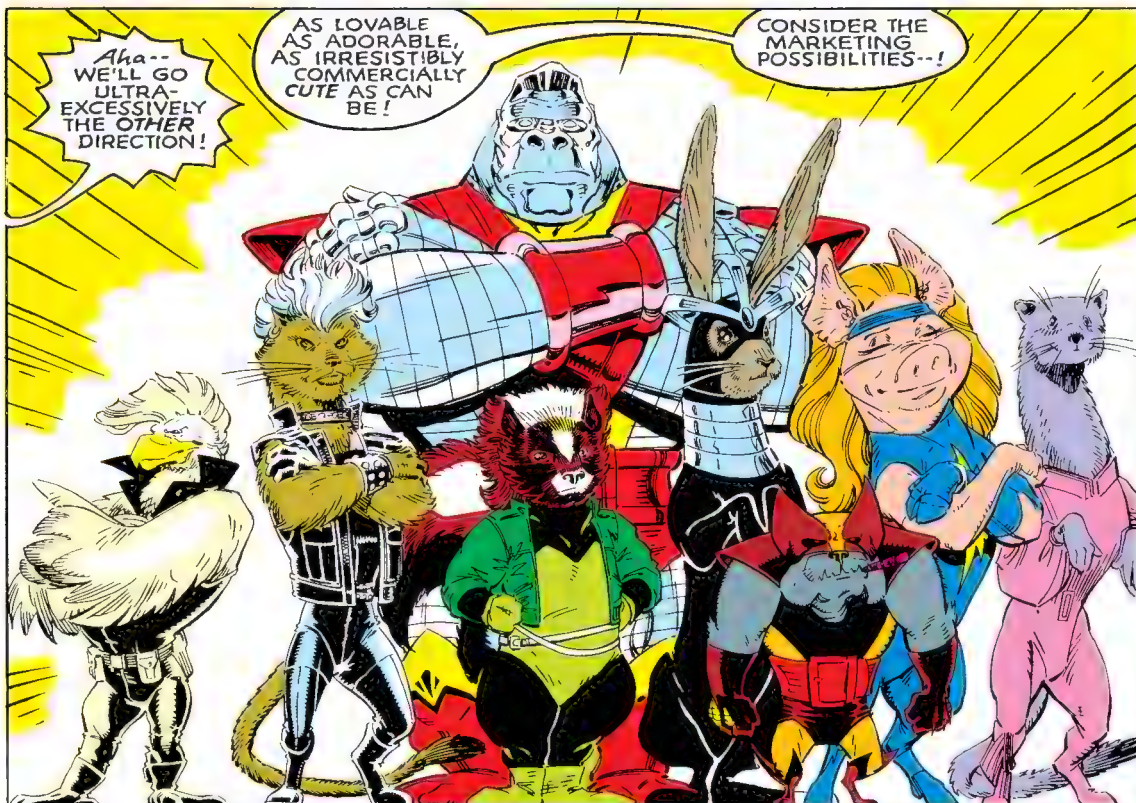
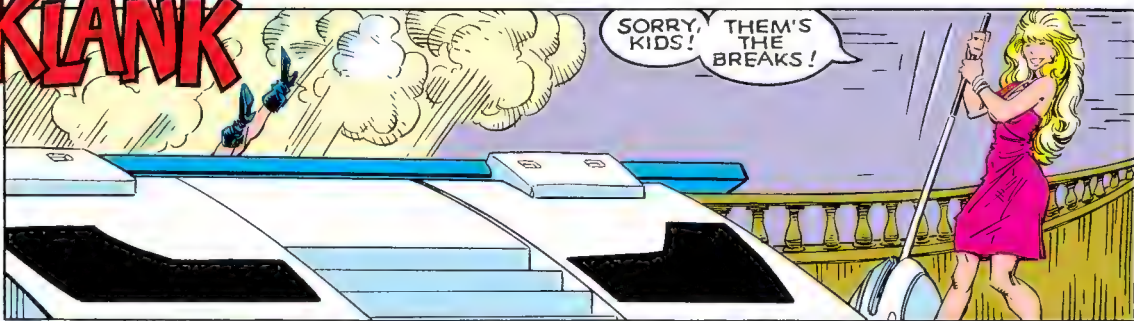
*IN LONGSHOT #'s 5 & 6--Bob.
CAND WASN'T THAT SO
GROSS, WHAT JUST HAPPENED
TO CHRIS-- guffaw! :>)







KLANK

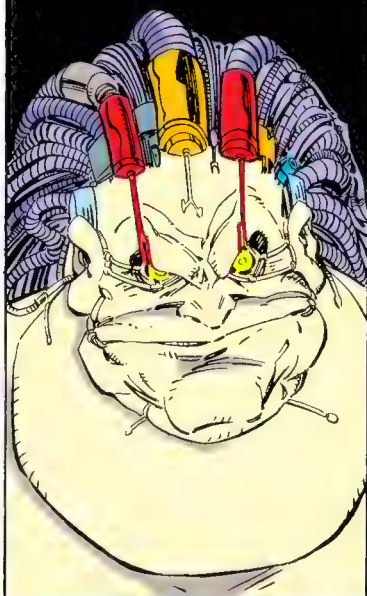


UNFORTUNATELY, THAT'S BUT A HARBINGER OF THINGS TO COME.

HOOR AFTER HOOR, X-MEN AFTER X-MEN. MUTANTS WITHOUT END, THE AUDITION GOES ON AND ON AND ON AND ON...

...SKINNY X-MEN, FAT X-MEN, GIANT X-MEN, TINY X-MEN, MUSICAL X-MEN, DANCING X-MEN, X-MEN FISH, X-MEN INSECTS, CHIMPS IN X-MEN COSTUMES, X-MEN MIMES...

...MIDGET X-MEN, X-MEN MADE OF STRAW OR BRICK OR MINT CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM! EACH GROUP OF X-MEN MORE BORING, MORE TIRESOME, MORE... MALODOROUS... THAN THE ONE BEFORE...



...UNTIL...

... JUST WHEN HE THOUGHT THINGS COULDN'T GET WORSE...

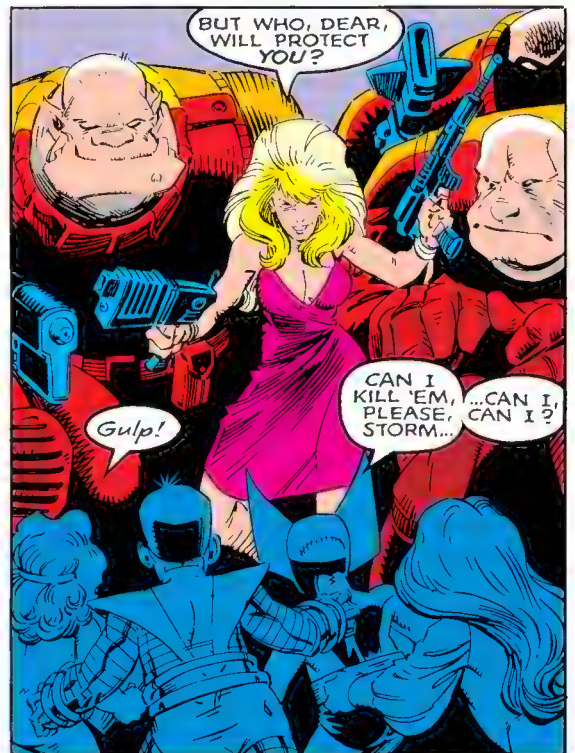
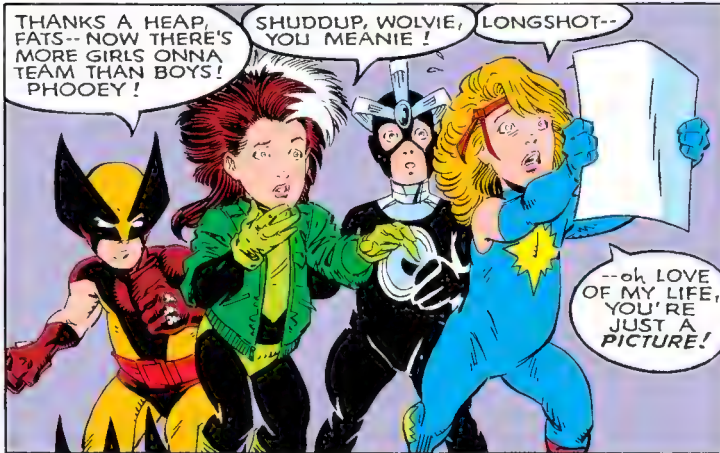
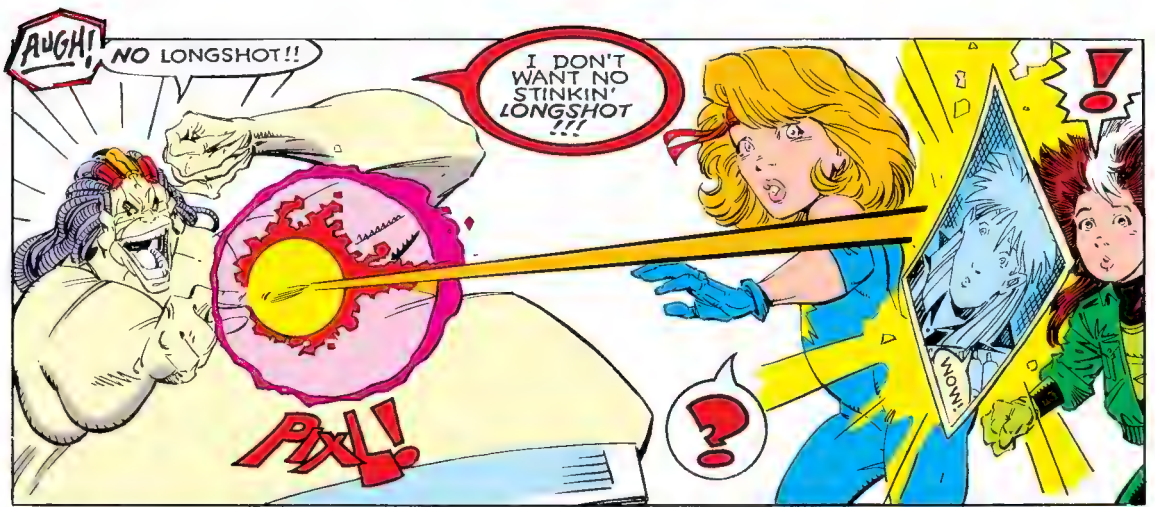
THEY'RE **YOUNG!**
THEY'RE **PROUD!**
THEY'RE **CANTANKEROUS!**
THEY ARE-- **THE MIGHTY X-BABIES!**



I AIN'T NO BABY!

HEADS UP, TUBBY!

GUESS WHO'S BACK!

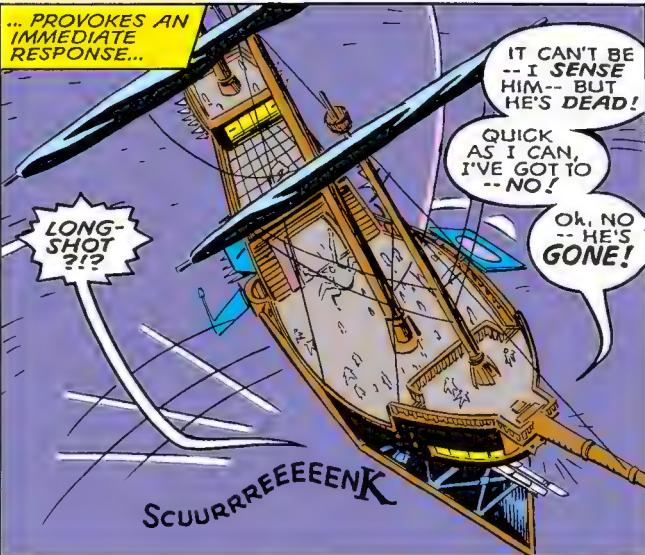


AT THAT VERY (CONVENIENT) MOMENT, BACK ON EARTH, GATEWAY (REMEMBER HIM) FLASHES THE X-MEN (THE REAL ONES, WHO WE KNOW AREN'T DEAD) FROM PLACE TO PLACE (SEE THEIR STORY FOR DETAILS, WE AIN'T GOT ROOM HERE!)

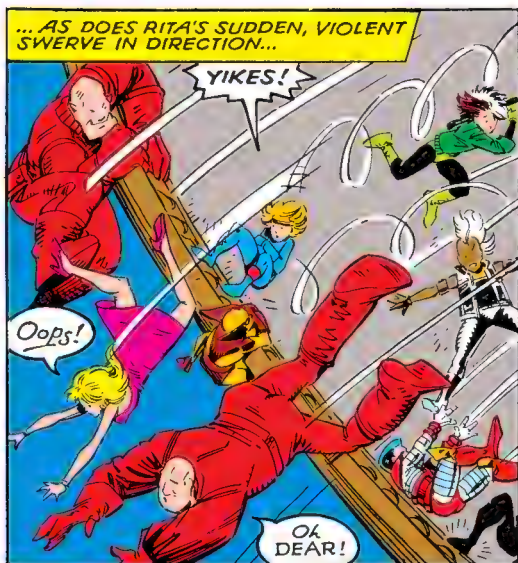
AND IN THE PROCESS, THEIR MOMENTARY TRANSIT OF THE OMNI-DIMENSIONAL TETHER...



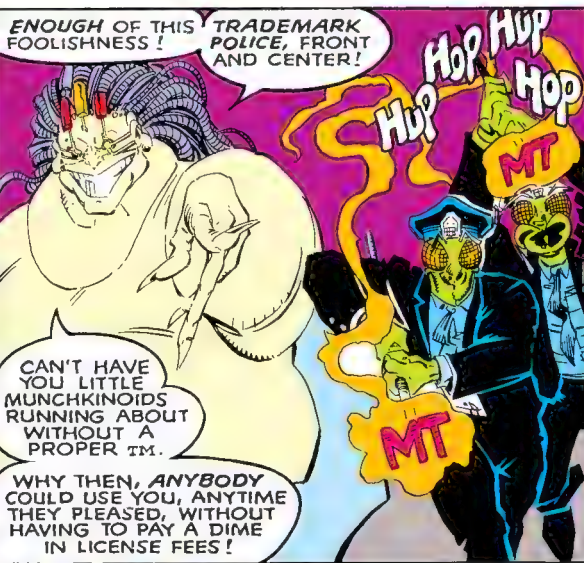
... PROVOKES AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE...

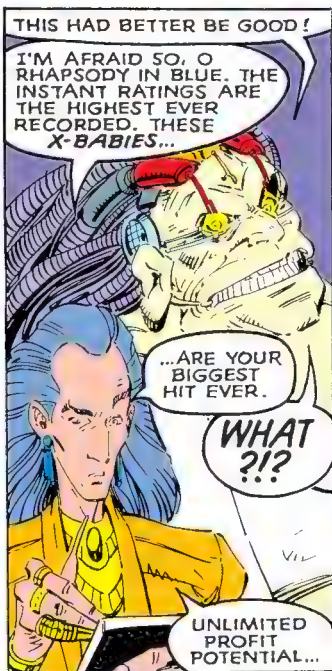
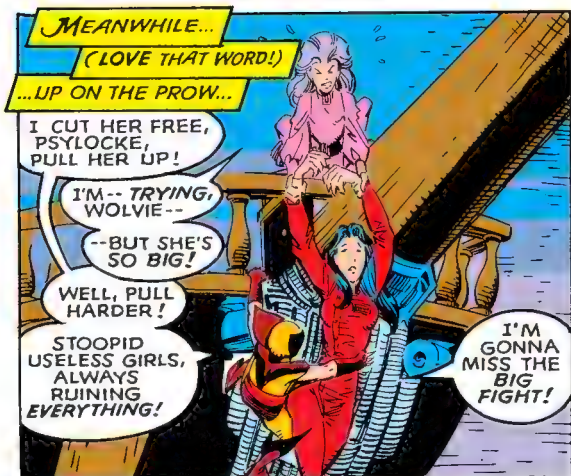


... AS DOES RITA'S SUDDEN, VIOLENT S'WERVE IN DIRECTION...



ENOUGH OF THIS FOOLISHNESS! TRADEMARK POLICE, FRONT AND CENTER!







WE'RE GOING TO BE SO SUCCESSFUL, YOU AND I!

YOU EARN THE MONEY, WORKING HARD AS YOU CAN.

I SPEND IT! WON'T THAT BE FUN?

I'M SO GLAD YOU APPROVE.

HOWEVER...



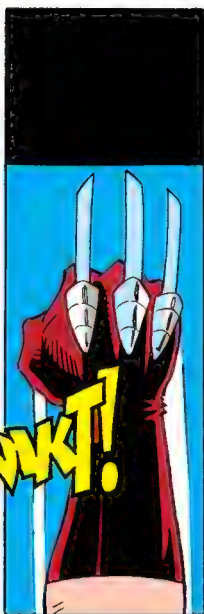
...UNNOTICED IN THE CONFUSION...

...A CONFLICT...

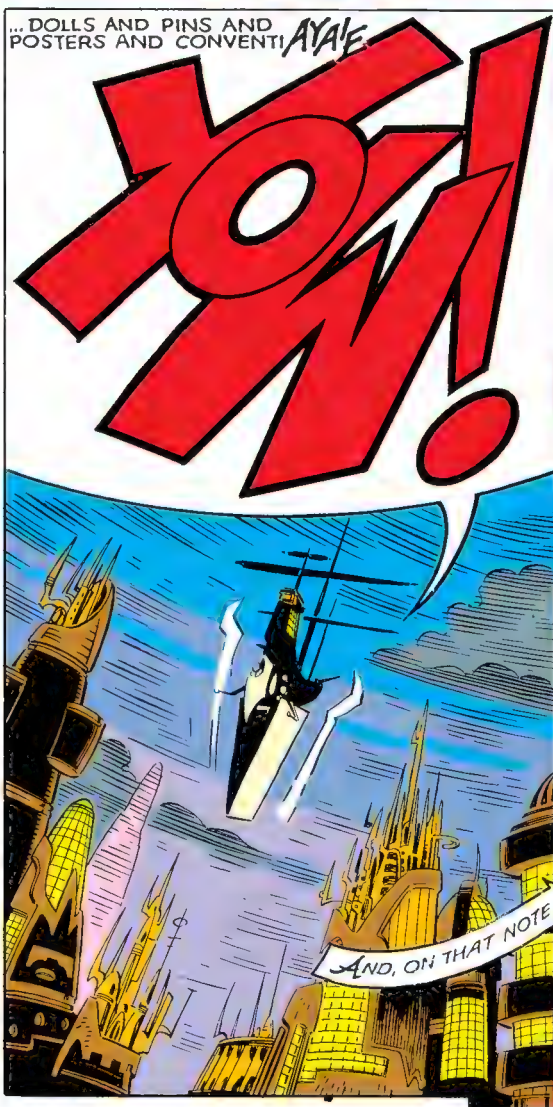
I CAN'T... I MUST...

...IS RESOLVED...

Heh heh heh



SNKT!



...DOLLS AND PINS AND POSTERS AND CONVENTIONS AYAYE

AND, ON THAT NOTE...



WELL, THAT'S ALL FOR THIS TIME!

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED-- ALISON? ROGUE??

HE'S MY BOYFRIEND-- GRRR!

SEZ WHO-- SNAR!

Sigh!

I'M OKAY, KIDS, I GOT BETTER, I'M NOT A PICTURE NOMORE, ISN'T THAT NEAT?

WE GOTTA GO NOW-- SO ...SEE YA LATER!

AM I GONNA REGRET THIS?

HEY, GUYS... ...I THINK I FOUND... ...A WAY OUT!

Sniff Sniff

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY

CHAPTER SEVEN:

DEMON NIGHT

FOR OVER A DECADE, THE CITADEL OF SCIENCE CHISED INTO THE SIDE OF WUNDAGORE MOUNTAIN IN CENTRAL EUROPE HAS HOSTED TWO MOST SINGULAR ACTIVITIES.

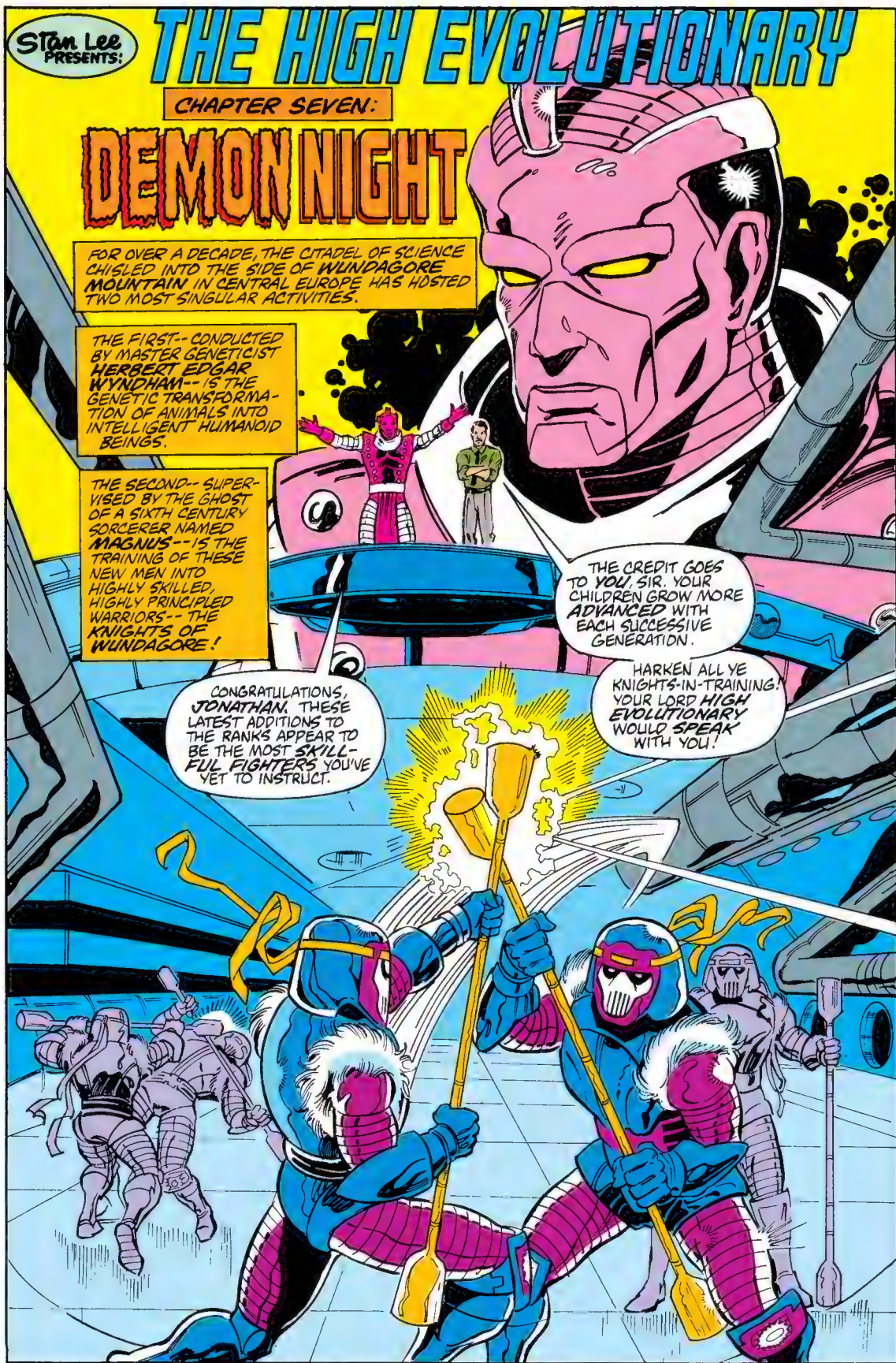
THE FIRST-- CONDUCTED BY MASTER GENETICIST HERBERT EDGAR WYNDHAM-- IS THE GENETIC TRANSFORMATION OF ANIMALS INTO INTELLIGENT HUMANOID BEINGS.

THE SECOND-- SUPERVISED BY THE GHOST OF A SIXTH CENTURY SORCERER NAMED MAGNUS-- IS THE TRAINING OF THESE NEW MEN INTO HIGHLY SKILLED, HIGHLY PRINCIPLED WARRIORS-- THE KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE!

CONGRATULATIONS, JONATHAN. THESE LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE RANKS APPEAR TO BE THE MOST SKILLFUL FIGHTERS YOU'VE YET TO INSTRUCT.

THE CREDIT GOES TO YOU, SIR. YOUR CHILDREN GROW MORE ADVANCED WITH EACH SUCCESSIVE GENERATION.

HARKEN ALL YE KNIGHTS-IN-TRAINING! YOUR LORD HIGH EVOLUTIONARY WOULD SPEAK WITH YOU!





I HEREBY DECLARE YOUR APPRENTICESHIP TO BE OVER. IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR YEARS OF **HARD WORK** AND COMMENDABLE **DISCIPLINE**, I PUB THEE KNIGHTS OF THE REALM!

SIR GOTE.



WHEN JONATHAN FIRST PROPOSED EDUCATING THE NEW MEN IN THE **MEDIEVAL TRADITION**, I WAS DUBIOUS. BUT NOW I SEE IT WAS THE **IDEAL WAY** TO INSTILL A HIGH **CODE OF CONDUCT** IN THESE POOR UNCULTURED CREATURES.

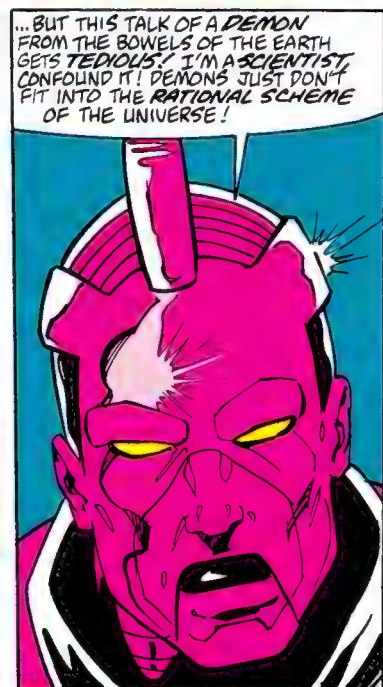
...AND SIR HOGG. YOU MAY ALL **RISE**.



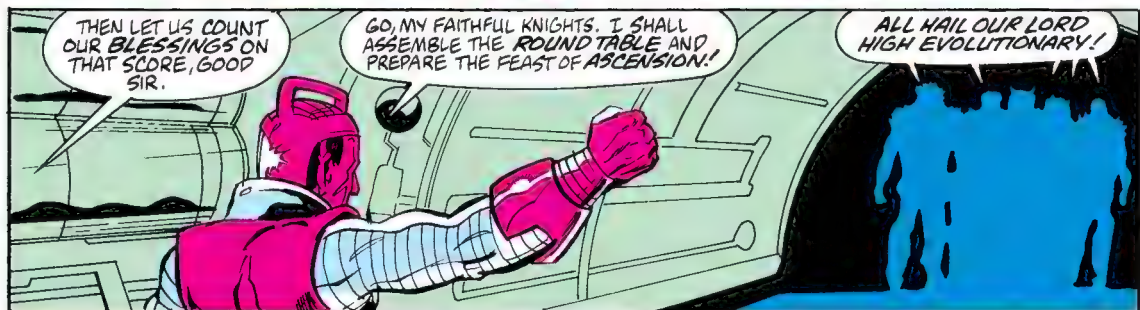
WELL, MY FRIEND, THESE SIX BRING THE TOTAL TO **FORTY-TWO**.

YOU MUST THINK ME AN **ALARMIST**, MILORD. I HAD US UNDERTAKE THIS TRAINING PROGRAM WITH GREAT **HASTE**, YET THE GREAT DEMON WE PREPARE OUR CHARGES TO RESIST HAS NOT YET RISEN.

YOU AND THAT **DEMON**! I HUMOR YOU ABOUT THE **GHOST** OF A SIXTH CENTURY MAGICIAN YOU SAY IS OCCUPYING YOUR BODY...



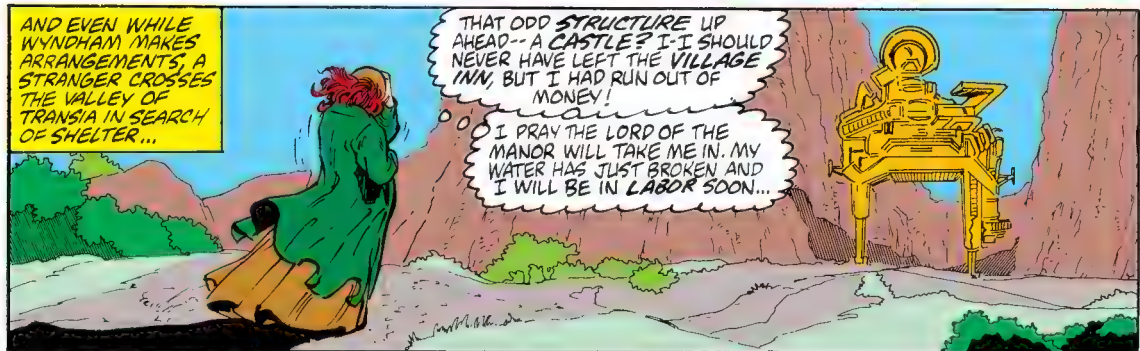
... BUT THIS TALK OF A **DEMON** FROM THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH GETS **TEDIOUS**! I'M A **SCIENTIST**, CONFOUND IT! DEMONS JUST DON'T FIT INTO THE **RATIONAL SCHEME** OF THE UNIVERSE!



THEN LET US COUNT OUR **BLESSINGS** ON THAT SCORE, GOOD SIR.

GO, MY FAITHFUL KNIGHTS. I SHALL ASSEMBLE THE **ROUND TABLE** AND PREPARE THE FEAST OF **ASCENSION**!

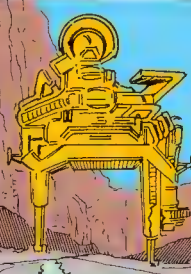
ALL HAIL OUR LORD HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!

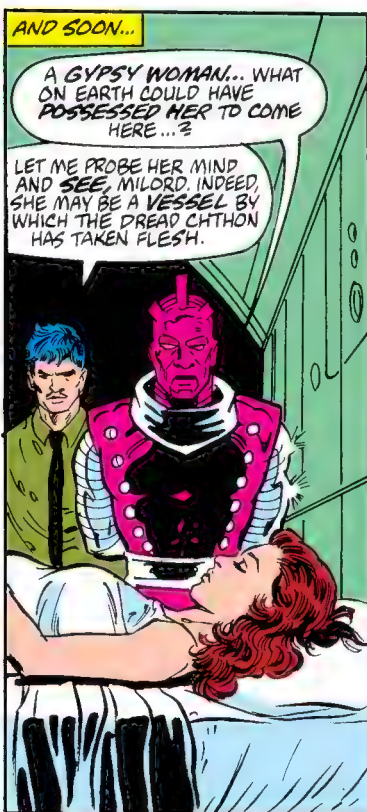
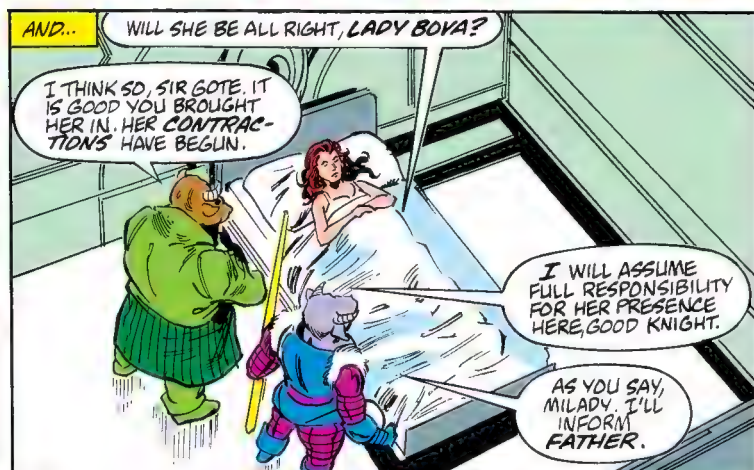
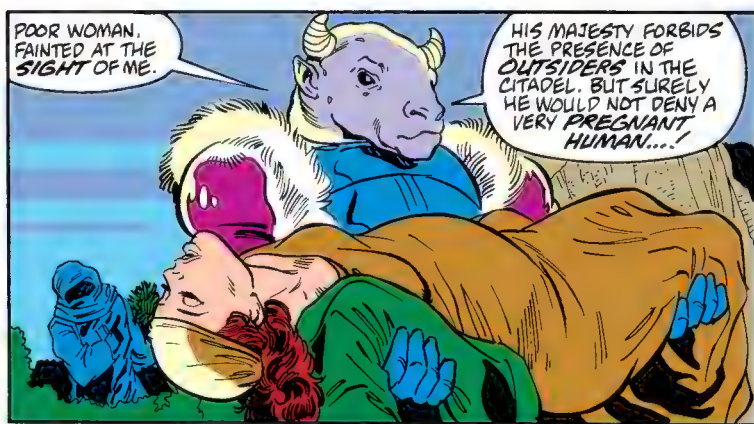


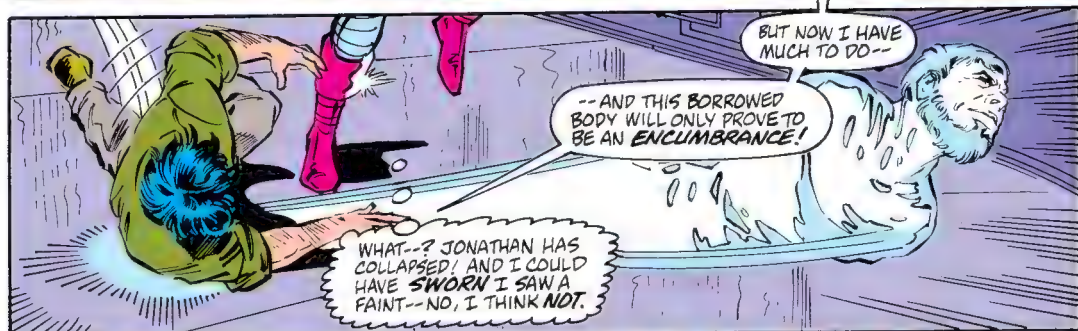
AND EVEN WHILE WYNHAM MAKES ARRANGEMENTS, A STRANGER CROSSES THE VALLEY OF TRANSIA IN SEARCH OF SHELTER...

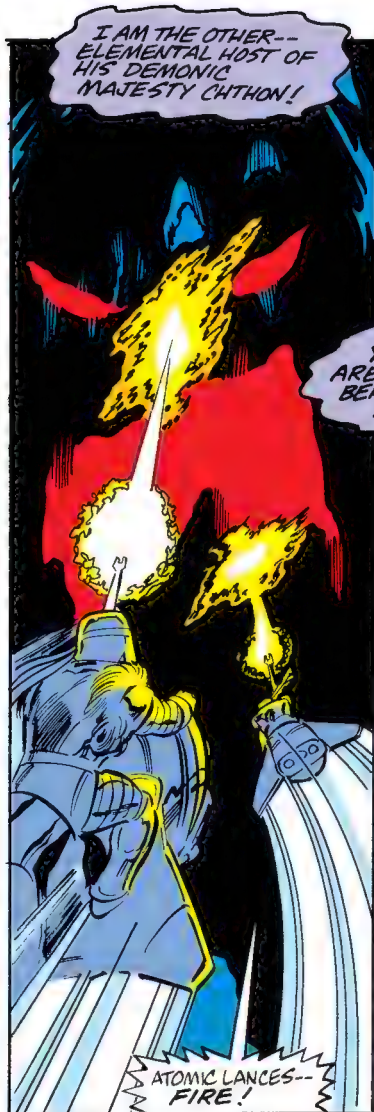
THAT ODD **STRUCTURE** UP AHEAD-- A **CASTLE**? I-I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT THE **VILLAGE INN**, BUT I HAD RUN OUT OF MONEY!

I PRAY THE LORD OF THE MANOR WILL TAKE ME IN. MY WATER HAS JUST BROKEN AND I WILL BE IN **LABOR** SOON...









I AM THE OTHER--
ELEMENTAL HOST OF
HIS DEMONIC
MAJESTY CHTHON!

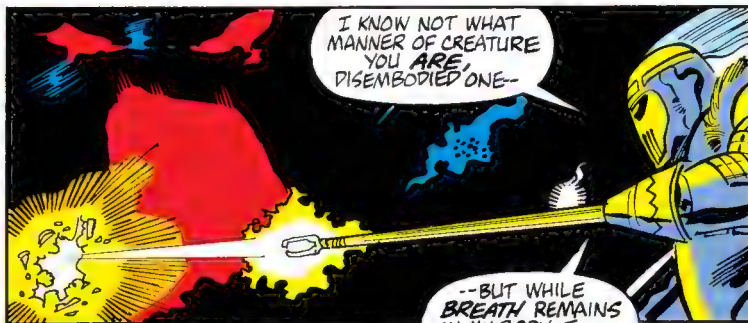
YOU
ARE AS GNATS
BEFORE
ME!

ATOMIC LANCES--
FIRE!



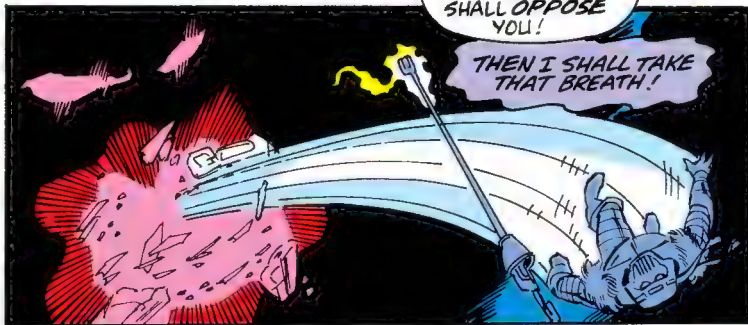
YOUR WEAPONS ARE BUT
MATCHES BEFORE A
RAGING INFERNO!

UHHHHHHH!

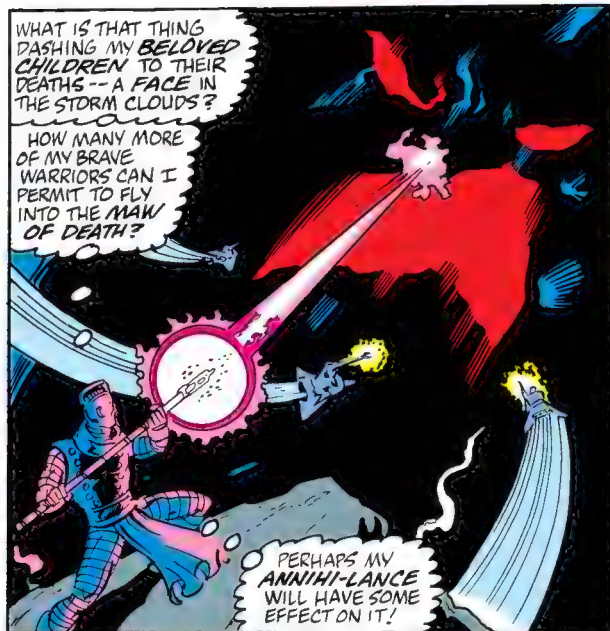


I KNOW NOT WHAT
MANNER OF CREATURE
YOU **ARE**,
DISEMBODIED ONE--

--BUT WHILE
BREATH REMAINS
IN MY BODY I
SHALL OPPOSE
YOU!



THEN I SHALL TAKE
THAT BREATH!



WHAT IS THAT THING
DASHING MY BELOVED
CHILDREN TO THEIR
DEATHS-- A FACE IN
THE STORM CLOUDS?

HOW MANY MORE
OF MY BRAVE
WARRIORS CAN I
PERMIT TO FLY
INTO THE MAW
OF DEATH?

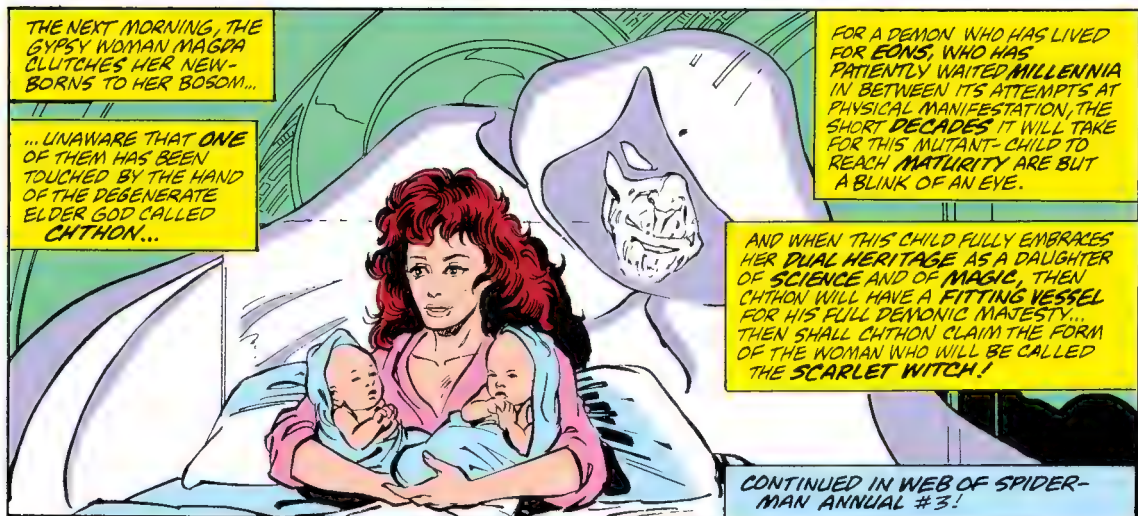
PERHAPS MY
ANNIHILANCE
WILL HAVE SOME
EFFECT ON IT!



MEANWHILE, AT THE BASE OF WUNDAGORE...

HIM! BARON
GREGOR RUSOFF--
AND IN HIS LAP THE
DARKHOLD!

HE MUST HAVE
BEEN LYING WHEN
HE SAID HE NO
LONGER HAD THE
INSIDIOUS TOME!
AND NOW CHTHON
HAS USED THE
POOR WRETCH TO
RECITE THE SPELL
OF ASCENSION!



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pencils

TONY DeZUNIGA
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GREGORY WRIGHT
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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE

AA
AUTHORITY

X-FACTOR

MUTANT
POLICE



YOU MUST REMEMBER
THIS... A KISS IS JUST
A KISS...

SILLY SONG...
FOR ORDINARY
PEOPLE. FOR ME...
A KISS IS SO
MUCH MORE...!

KISS OF DEATH!

C'MERE,
ICE MAN!

OH, MOST
BEAUTIFUL
INFECTIA...
BE MINE!

SMOOCH!

AND NOW
THAT I'M
YOURS--
BODY AND
SOUL--I HAVE
A PRESENT
FOR YOU.

FOR
ME?

HERE IT IS...
X-FACTOR'S
SENTIENT
SHIP...

I WOULD'VE
GIFT WRAPPED
IT, LOVELY ONE,
BUT I COULDN'T
FIND ANY PAPER
BIG ENOUGH!

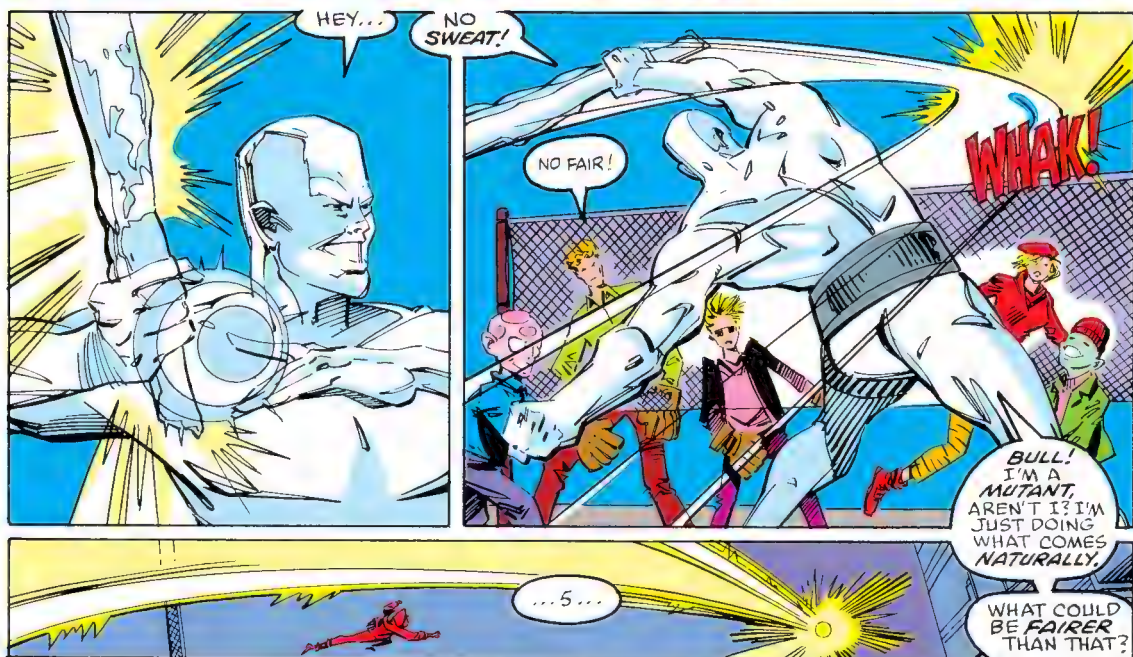
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER WALTER SIMONSON PENCILER BOB WIACEK INKER JOE ROSEN LETTERER PETRA SCOTESI COLORIST BOB HARRAS EDITOR TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

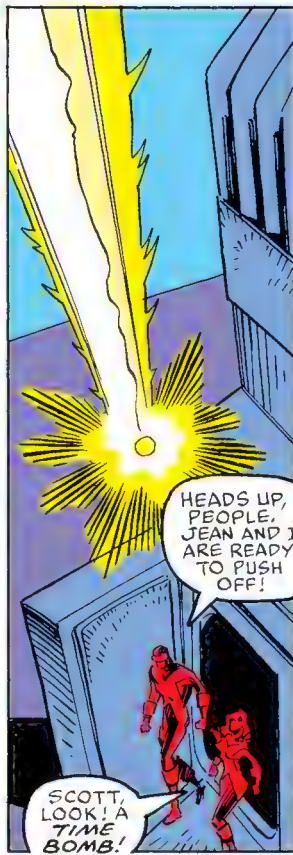
"QUIT *DAYDREAMING*, GIRL! THAT *SHIP*'S NOT IN YOUR POCKET YET.

"IT'S STILL OUT *THERE...*
FLOATING ON THE ATLANTIC
LIKE A SILVER CLOUD.

"THAT FLASH OF *LIGHT*!
WHAT CAN THEY BE DOING
NOW...?"

...8...







GOOD GRIEF!
WE WERE JUST
HAVING A
PRACTICE
SESSION!

...HONING
OUR POWERS,
LIKE YOU
SAID.

I MADE
A **LITTLE**
ONE.

AS SOON AS IT
GOT **DANGEROUS**,
I'D'VE SHAKEN
IT APART OR
RUSTY'D BURN
IT UP OR...

CHILL OUT,
CYCLOPS, I
WOULDN'T
HAVE LET IT
HURT ANYONE

SOMETIMES
I WONDER IF
THAT'S JUST
WHAT YOU **ARE**,
MISTER.

X-FACTOR BROUGHT
THESE KIDS HERE TO
TRAIN IN CONTROLLING
THEIR POWERS, AND
WHILE THEY'RE HERE,
THEY'RE **OUR**
RESPONSIBILITY.

MAYBE LEAVING
THEM HERE WITH-
OUT **ADULT**
SUPERVISION
ISN'T SUCH A
GOOD IDEA!



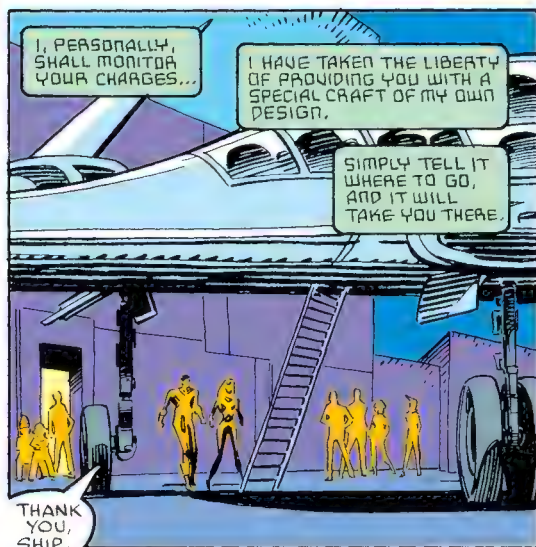
WHAT DO
YOU THINK
I AM--
CRAZY?

SHWIP!

I **RESENT**
THAT!

CYCLOPS AND MARVEL
GIRL, YOURS IS AN
IMPORTANT MISSION...

DO NOT WORRY. THERE WILL BE NO
MORE GAMES OF VOLLEY BOMB
WHILE YOU ARE AWAY.



I, PERSONALLY,
SHALL MONITOR
YOUR CHARGES...

I HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY
OF PROVIDING YOU WITH A
SPECIAL CRAFT OF MY OWN
DESIGN.

SIMPLY TELL IT
WHERE TO GO,
AND IT WILL
TAKE YOU THERE.

THANK
YOU,
SHIP.



I SURE
HOPE SCOTT
FINDS WHAT
HE'S LOOK-
ING FOR.

ME TOO. EVER SINCE
HE LEARNED HIS SON
IS ALIVE SOMEWHERE,
HE'S BEEN CRAZY TO
FIND HIM...

...WITH THE
EMPHASIS ON
CRAZY!

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

C'MON, HANK, LET'S PARTY!

YOUR CHARGES WILL BE QUITE SAFE, BEAST.

UH...YOU THINK WE OUGHTA LEAVE THE KIDS HERE LIKE THIS... ALL ALONE AN' STUFF?

I WILL PREPARE THEM A NUTRITIOUS DINNER AND THEN WE SHALL VIEW A FILM EXPLICATING THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA...

SOUNDS...GREAT, SORRY WE HAVE TO MISS IT, PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT...! HANK...COME ON!

I THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER LEAVE,

NOW, MAY I SUGGEST CHILIBURGERS WITH FRENCH FRIES, AND APPLE PIE FOR DESSERT?

SHORTLY...

HERE THEY COME

SOUNDS GREAT! MAN-- I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE RAMBO NUKES COMMANDO IN NICARAGUA ON A TWENTY-FOOT SCREEN!

HEY, ICEMAN, WHERE'D YOU GET THE PLANE?

WHY DIDN'T YOUR SHIP TELEPORT YOU?

HAVE YOU LEARNED ANY MORE ABOUT THOSE ANTI-BODIES WHO ATTACKED YOUR SHIP?*

NO...WE DIDN'T, WE...UH...DON'T...

NOT TO WORRY, M'MAN, I'LL FIELD THE QUESTIONS.

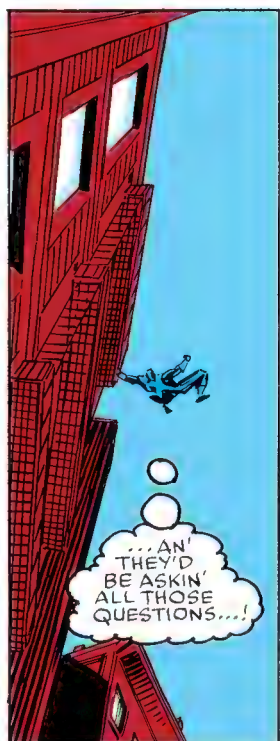
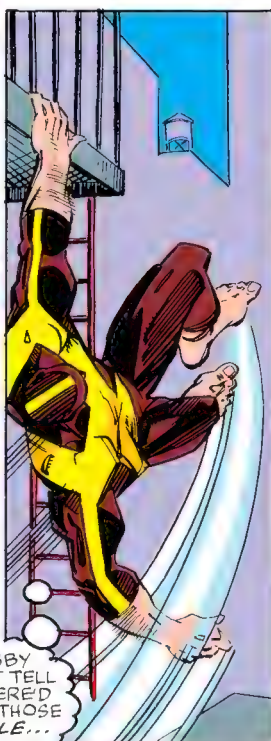
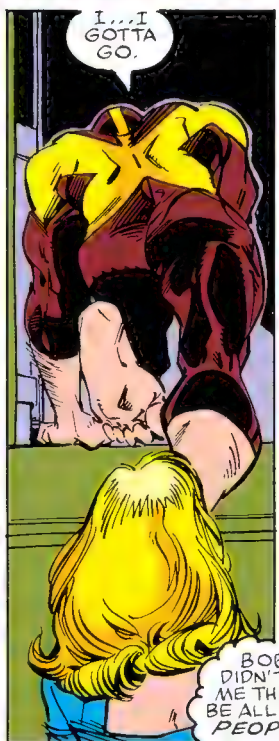
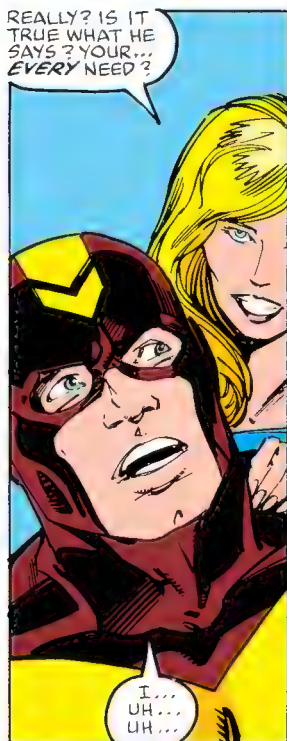
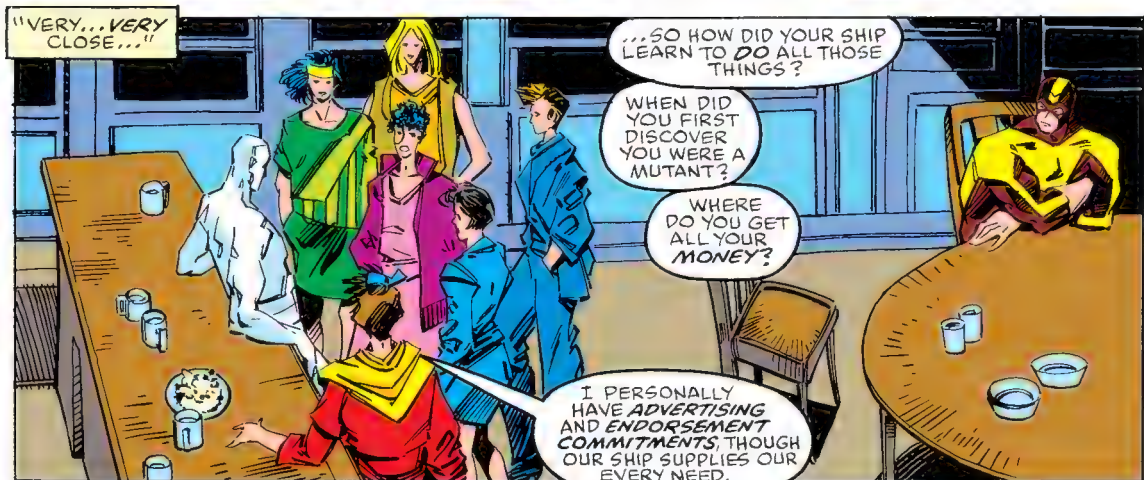
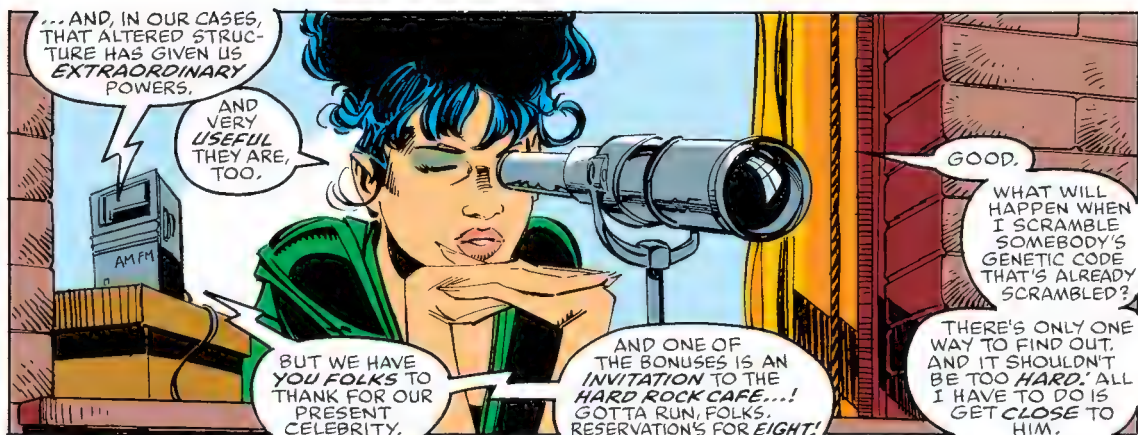
OUR SHIP MADE IT FOR US...BECAUSE IT'S MORE FUN TO FLY.

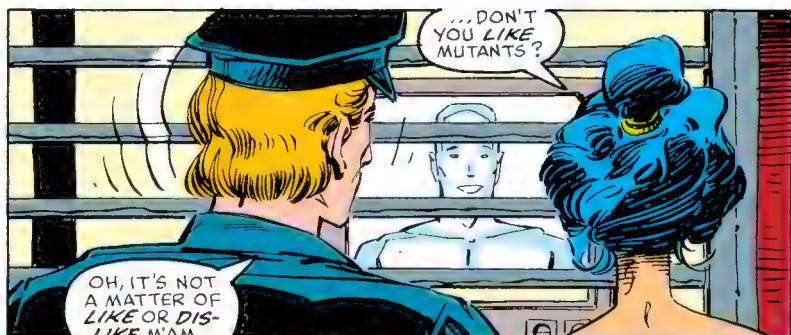
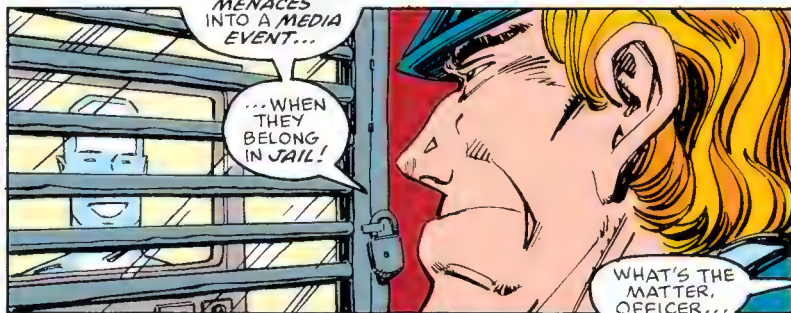
WE OF X-FACTOR WERE BORN WITH MUTANT GENETIC STRUCTURES...

TO WHAT DO YOU ATTRIBUTE YOUR SUDDEN, ENORMOUS POPULARITY?

UH...BOBBY...? YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THERE'D BE REPORTERS AN' TRISH IS OUTTA TOWN AN'...

*LAST ISSUE, BOB.





WHY... I GUESS
I'D GRAB 'EM AN'
HAUL 'EM IN FOR
QUESTIONING.



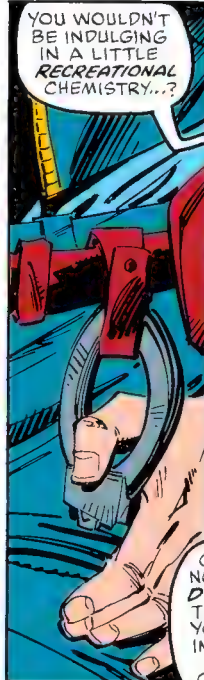
'COURSE...
IT'D TAKE A
BIGGER MAN THAN
I AM TO DO
THAT.

VERY
PERCEPTIVE,
OFFICER... BUT
THAT CAN BE
ARRANGED.

YOU KNOW,
SO MUCH OF
WHAT WE...
ACCOMPLISH
IS TIED TO
MOLECULAR
BIO-
CHEMISTRY.

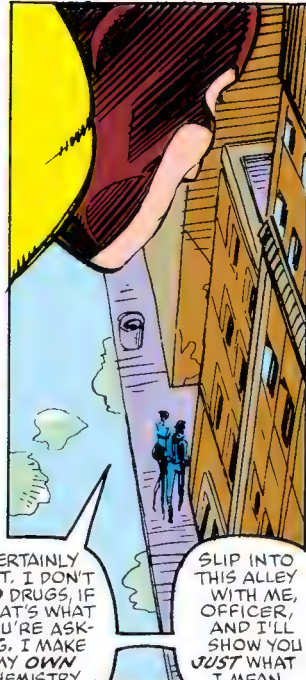
CHEMISTRY--?
M'AM... YOU'RE
AWFULLY PRETTY,
BUT YOU'RE
TALKING KINDA
CRAZY.

YOU WOULDN'T
BE INDULGING
IN A LITTLE
RECREATIONAL
CHEMISTRY...?



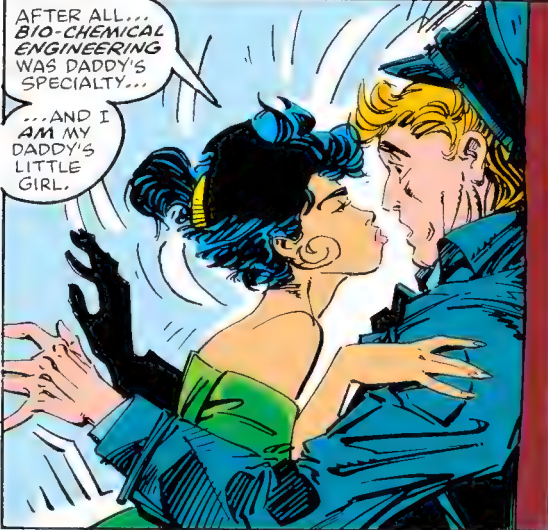
CERTAINLY
NOT. I DON'T
DO DRUGS, IF
THAT'S WHAT
YOU'RE ASK-
ING, I MAKE
MY OWN
CHEMISTRY...

SLIP INTO
THIS ALLEY
WITH ME,
OFFICER,
AND I'LL
SHOW YOU
JUST WHAT
I MEAN.

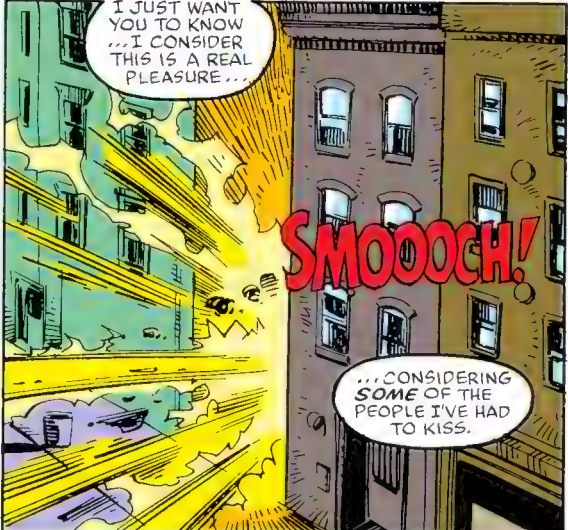


AFTER ALL...
BIO-CHEMICAL
ENGINEERING
WAS DADDY'S
SPECIALTY...

...AND I
AM MY
DADDY'S
LITTLE
GIRL.



I JUST WANT
YOU TO KNOW
... I CONSIDER
THIS IS A REAL
PLEASURE...



... CONSIDERING
SOME OF THE
PEOPLE I'VE HAD
TO KISS.

SEE? YOU'RE
A BIGGER MAN
ALREADY!

NOW WHO WAS
IT YOU WERE
GOING TO
ARREST--?

ICEMAN!

OK... GOODY!
COME WITH ME...
I KNOW JUST
WHERE HE IS.



WHILE HALFWAY
ACROSS THE
CONTINENT...

I'VE LOOKED,
I'VE FOLLOWED UP
EVERY CLUE...

...BUT I CAN'T
TRACE THE WHERE-
ABOUTS OF MY *SISTER*
AND THE *TWINS*, AT
ALL,

AT LEAST,
WITH MY *SON*,
WE KNOW WHERE
TO BEGIN.

*IN X-MEN
#227-BOB

FREEDOM FORCE
WAS THE LAST TO
SEE THE X-MEN ALIVE.*

MAYBE MADELYNE
SAID SOMETHING
TO THEM ABOUT
WHERE SHE LEFT
HIM. ANYTHING...!

YOU KNOW...
THEY WERE
THE LAST TO
SEE MY *BROTHER*
ALIVE, AS
WELL.

FUNNY... IN THE AFTERMATH
OF... ALL THAT'S HAPPENED,
I'VE HARDLY GIVEN *ALEX'S*
DEATH A THOUGHT.

YOU'VE BEEN
BOMBARDED
WITH EMERGENCIES
FOR VIRTUALLY
EVERY SECOND
SINCE YOU HEARD
OF IT.

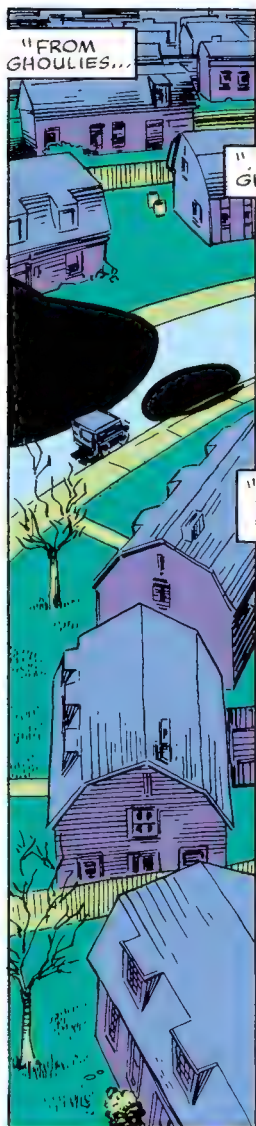
YOU CAN'T *CHANGE* THAT
HE DIED. YOU'VE CHOSEN TO
DEAL WITH THE THINGS
YOU *CAN* CHANGE.

BUT WHEN I THINK
OF IT, I'M *NUMB*.
I FEEL *NOTHING*.
MAYBE ON SOME...
UNCONSCIOUS
LEVEL I'VE
ALWAYS RE-
SENTED HIM.

MAYBE... I
JUST DON'T
CARE...?

THEY'RE *UP*
THERE, MYSTIQUE.
OVERHEAD.
THEY'LL BE
HERE SOON.

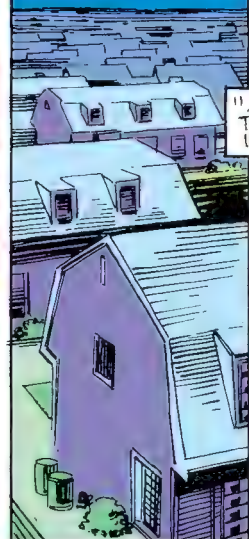
AND, WITH YOUR
HELP, MY DEAR
FRIEND, *FREEDOM*
FORCE WILL BE
READY FOR
THEM.



"FROM
GHOULIES..."

"...AND
GHOSTIES..."

"...AND LONG
LEGGETY
BEASTIES..."



"...AND THINGS
THAT GO BUMP
IN THE NIGHT..."

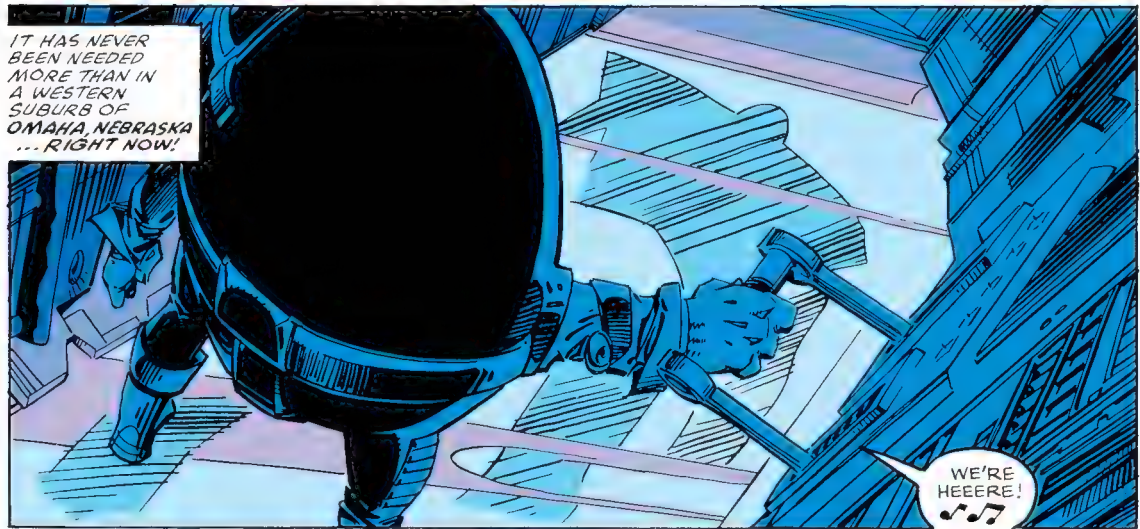


BUMP!



"...GOOD LORD,
DELIVER US!"

IT'S CALLED A SCOTTISH PRAYER,
WRITTEN LONG AGO BY AN
ANONYMOUS SCOTTISH POET.



IT HAS NEVER
BEEN NEEDED
MORE THAN IN
A WESTERN
SUBURB OF
OMAHA, NEBRASKA
... RIGHT NOW!

WE'RE
HEEERE!
♪♪

WHILE IN MAN-
HATTAN'S UPPER
WEST SIDE, OUT-
SIDE THE TRENDY
HARD ROCK CAFE...

YOU SAY HE'S
IN THERE,
INFECTIA? COME
ON! LET'S GET
HIM!

HOLD IT...UH...
BUD--? YOU GOT
A RESERVATION?

I'VE GOT
MORE THAN A
RESERVA-
TION, DUDE!

I'VE
GOT A
BADGE--

AND
RIGHT
ON MY
SIDE!

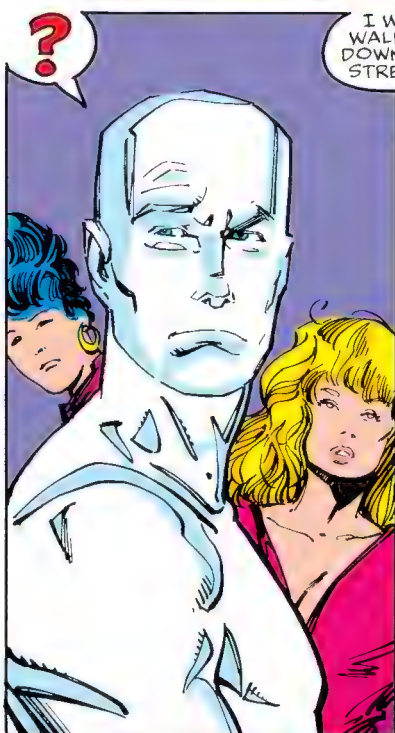
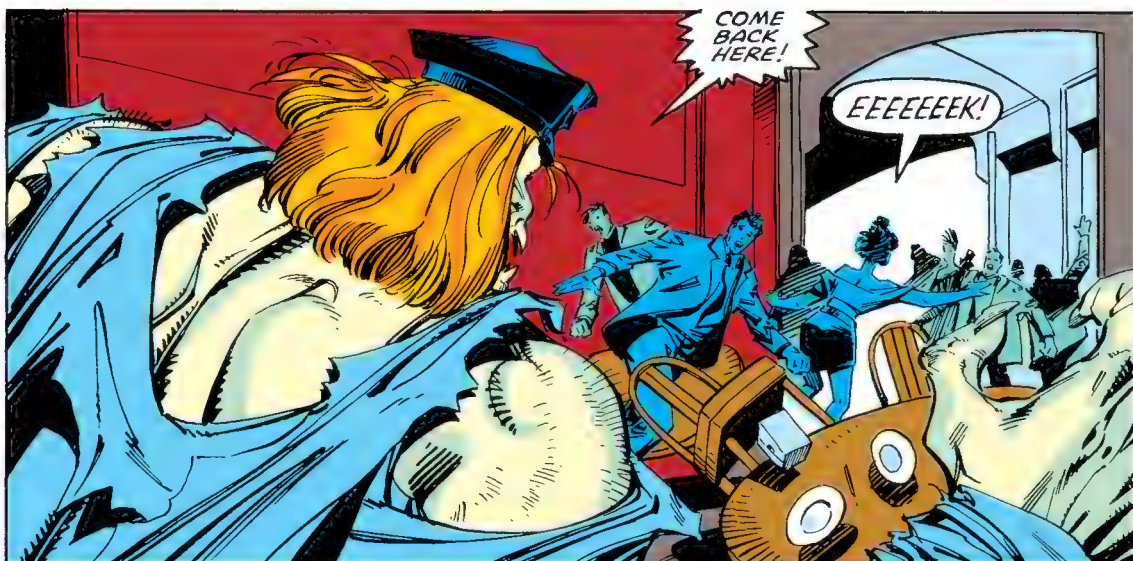
PAF!

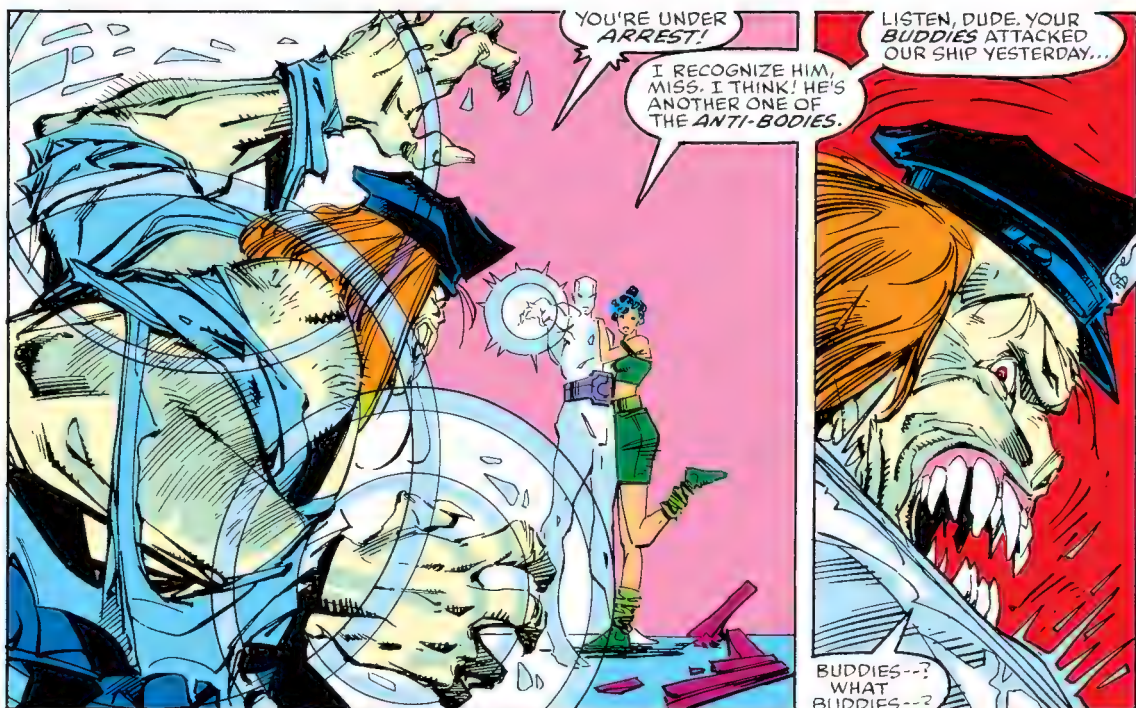
HEY,
INFECTIA!

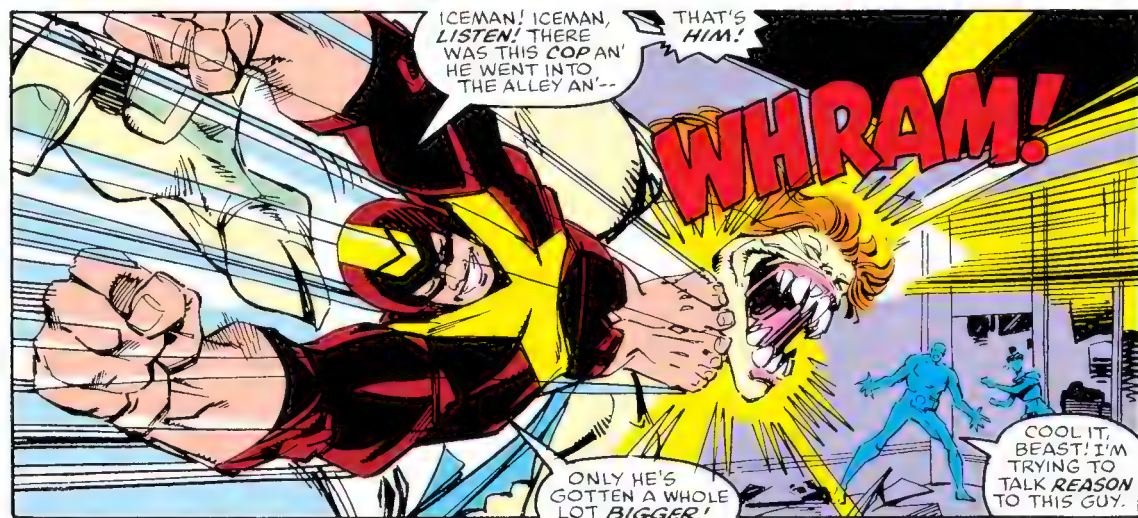
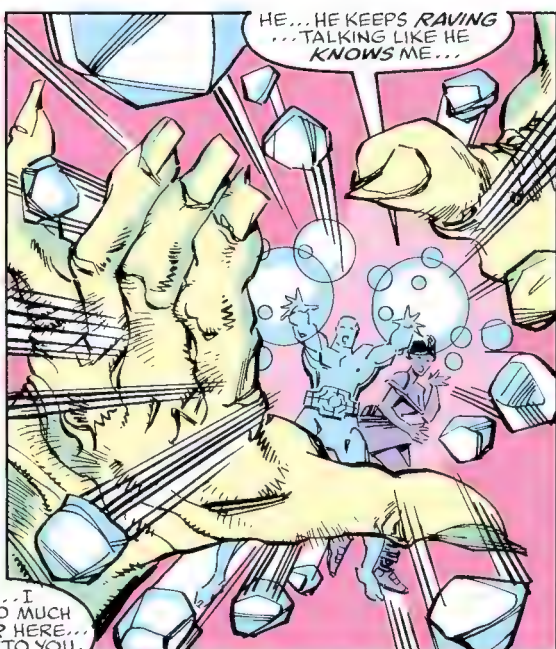
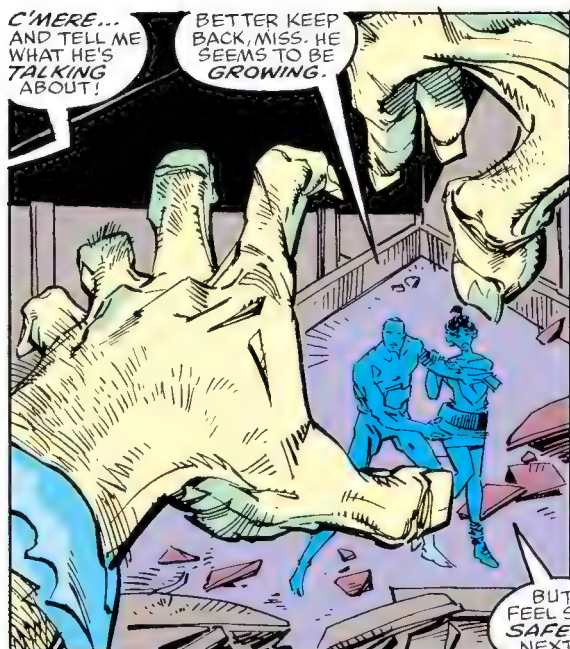
INFECTIA--?

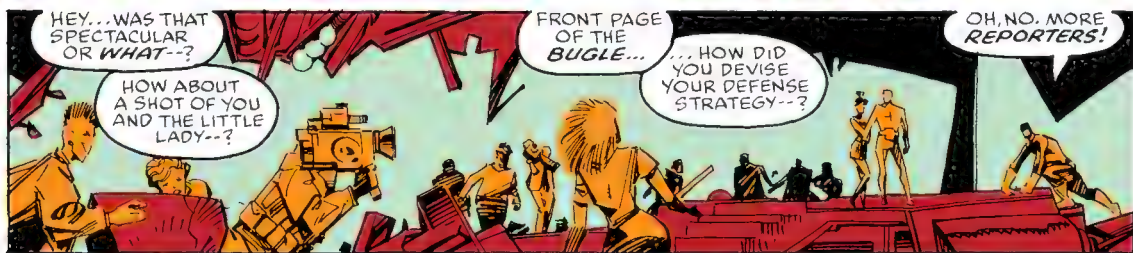
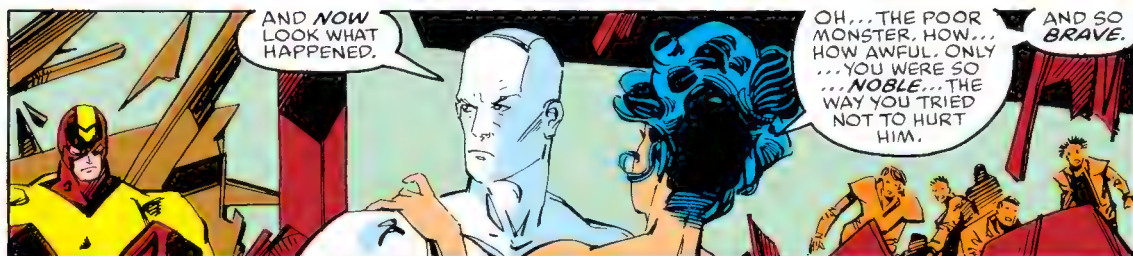
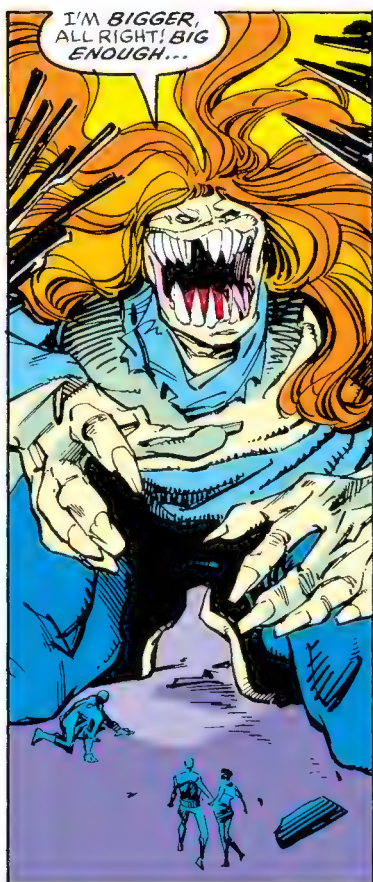
HEY,
INFECTIA,
WHERE'D
YOU GO--?

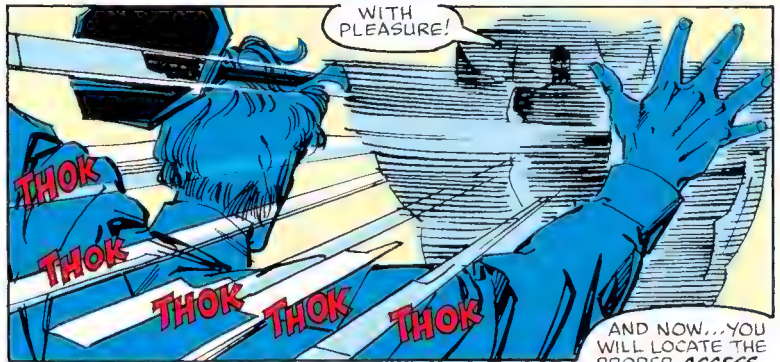
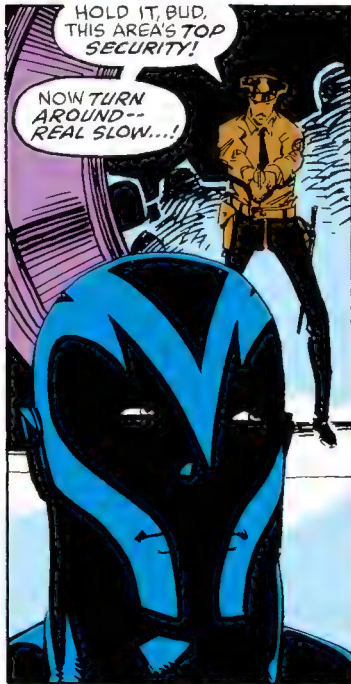
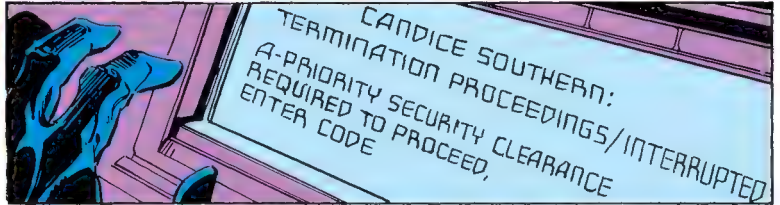
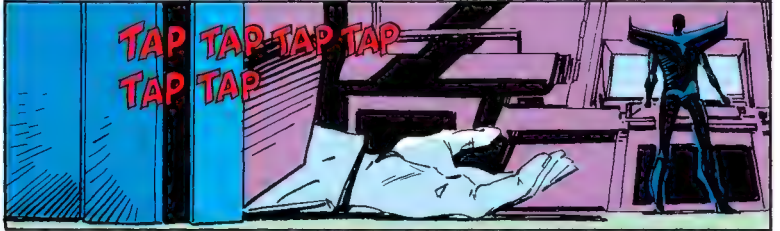
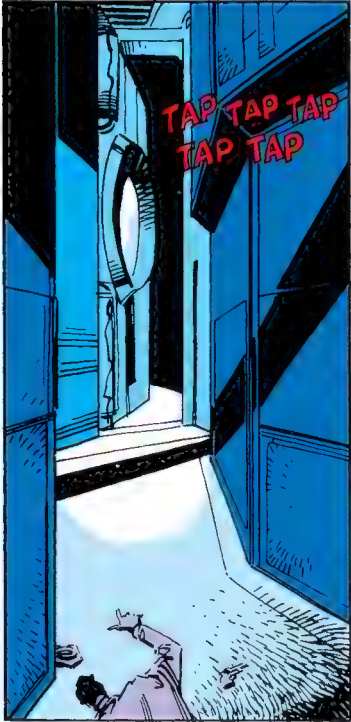
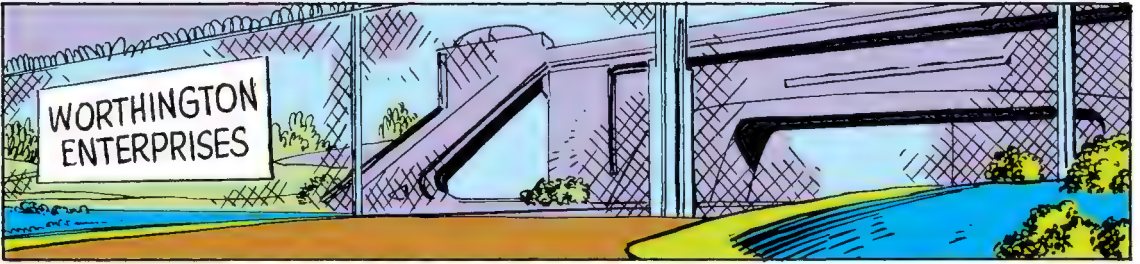
CRASH!

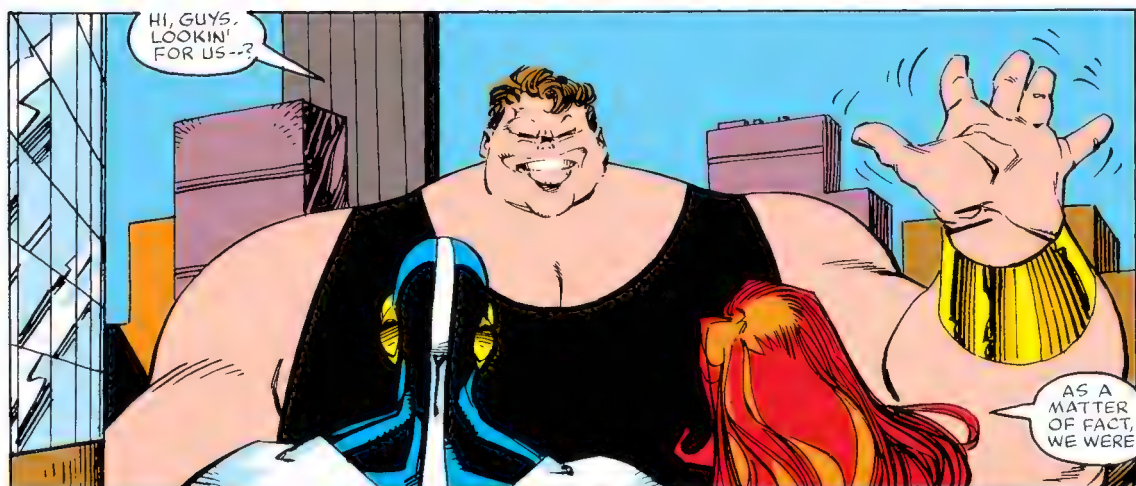
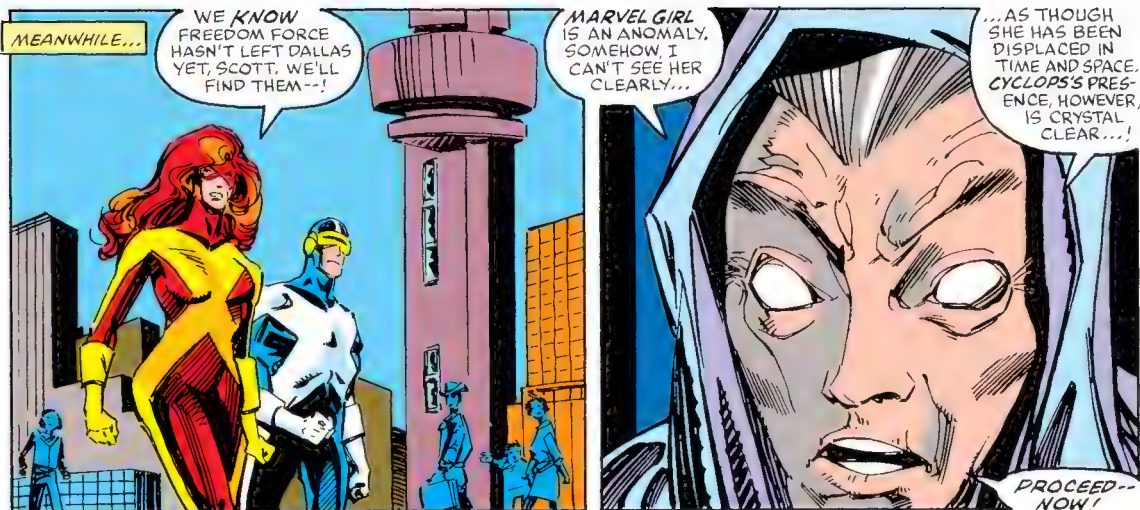


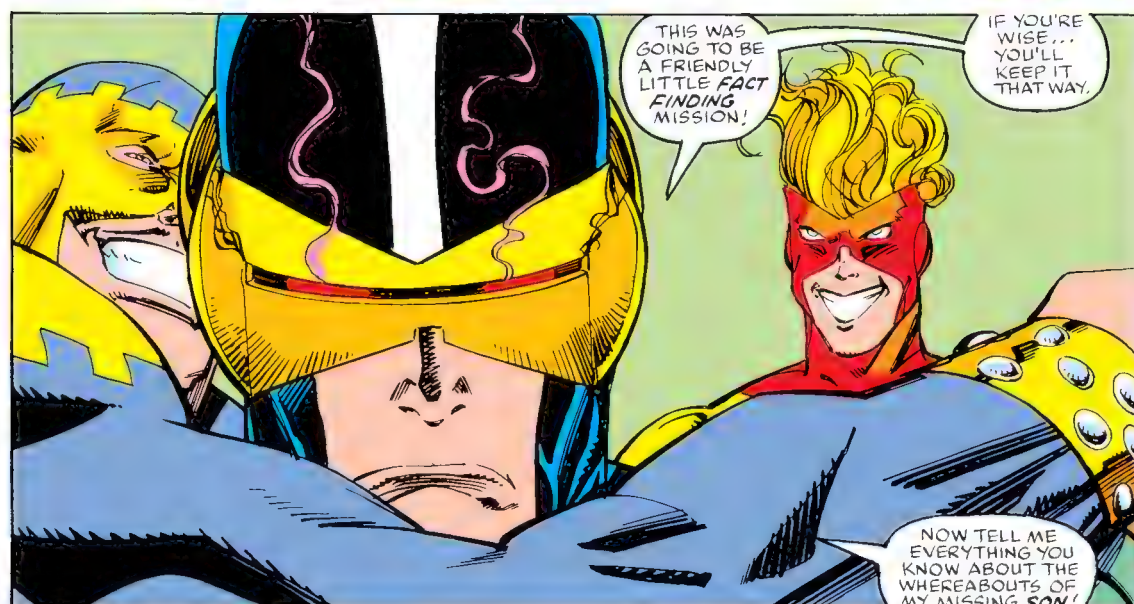
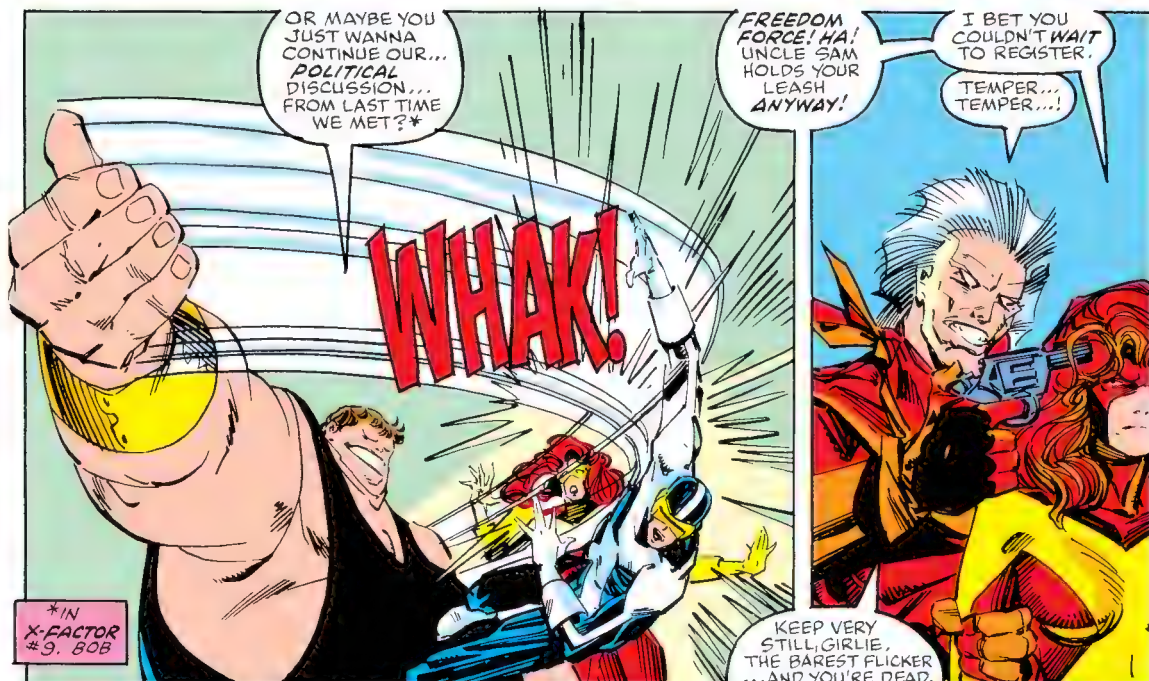












AND BACK IN MANHATTAN...

... IT WOULD BE A REAL PLEASURE TO SHOW YOU OUR SHIP, INFECTIA, BUT IT WILL ONLY LET MUTANTS INSIDE AND...

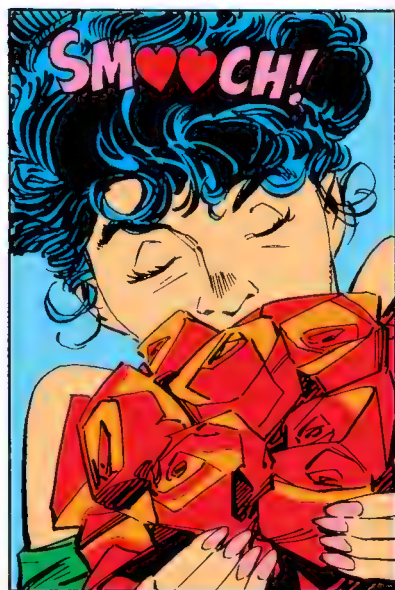
OH, BUT I AM A MUTANT.

REALLY--?

UH, ICEMAN--? ABOUT THAT MONSTER COP--?

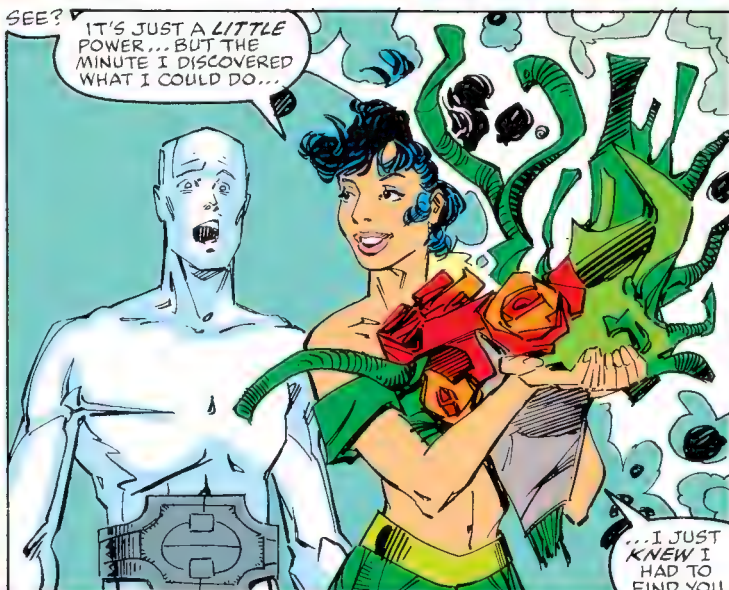
OH...LOOK! AREN'T THEY BEAUTIFUL!

BUT... WOULDN'T IT BE WONDERFUL IF THEY WERE JUST A TEENY BIT BIGGER--?



SEE?

IT'S JUST A LITTLE POWER... BUT THE MINUTE I DISCOVERED WHAT I COULD DO...



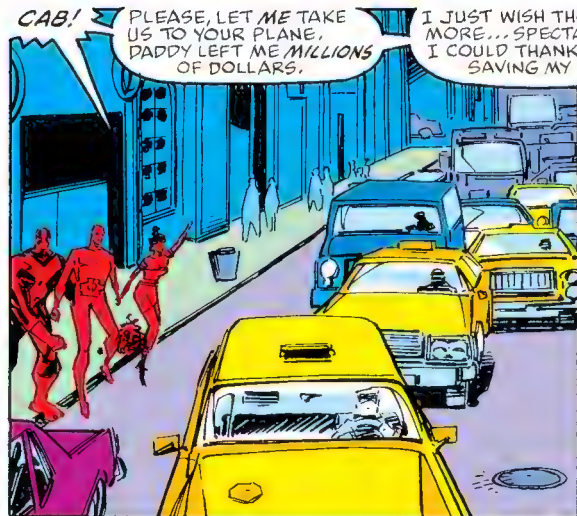
CAB!

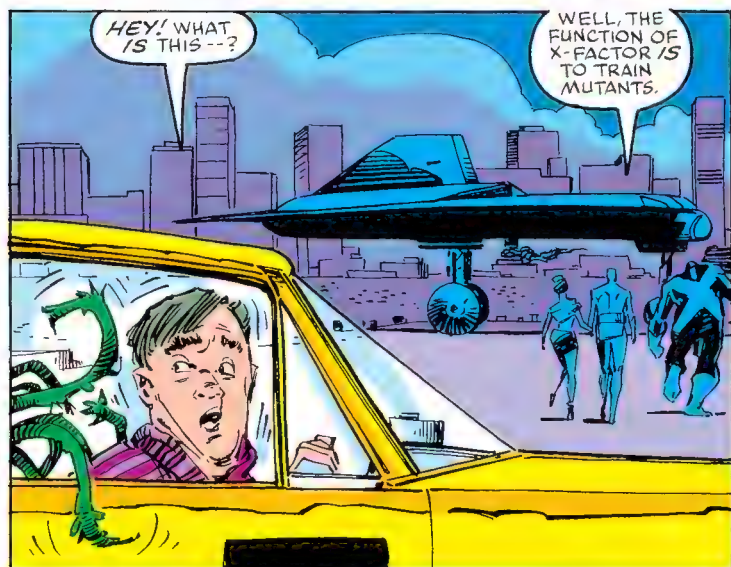
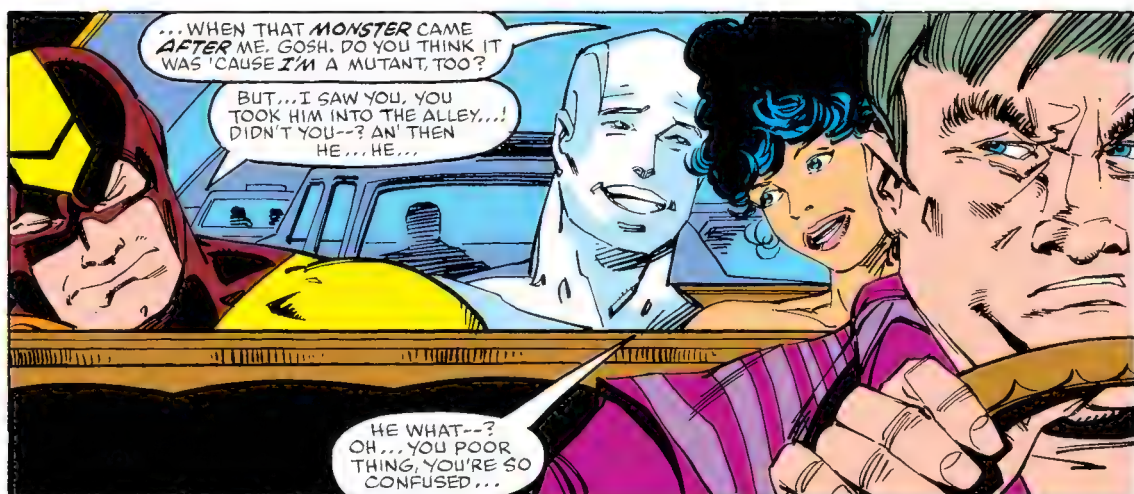
PLEASE, LET ME TAKE US TO YOUR PLANE, DADDY LEFT ME MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

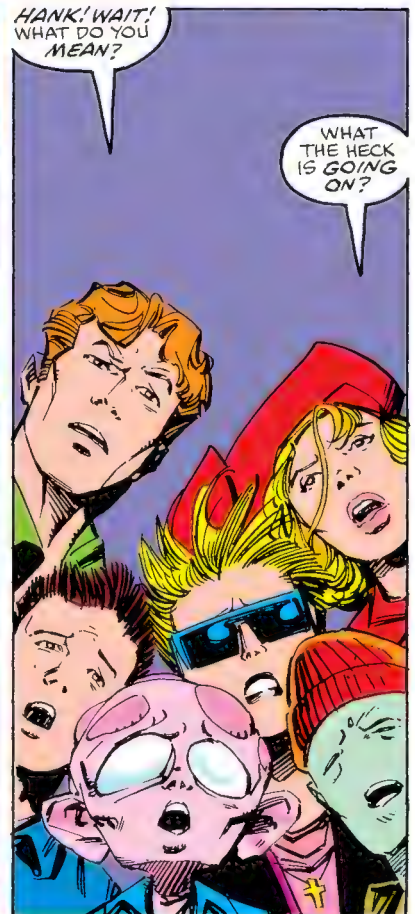
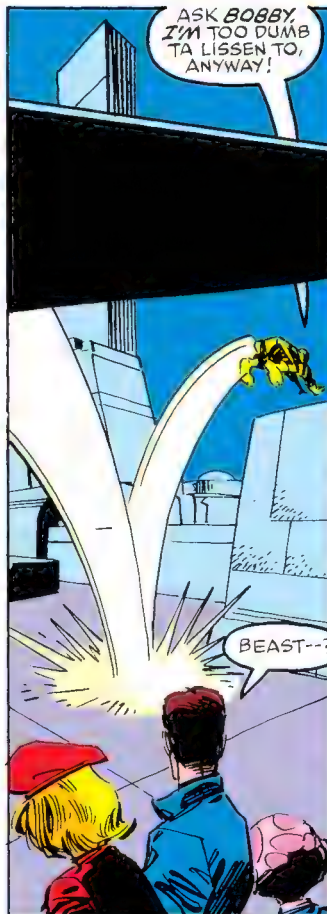
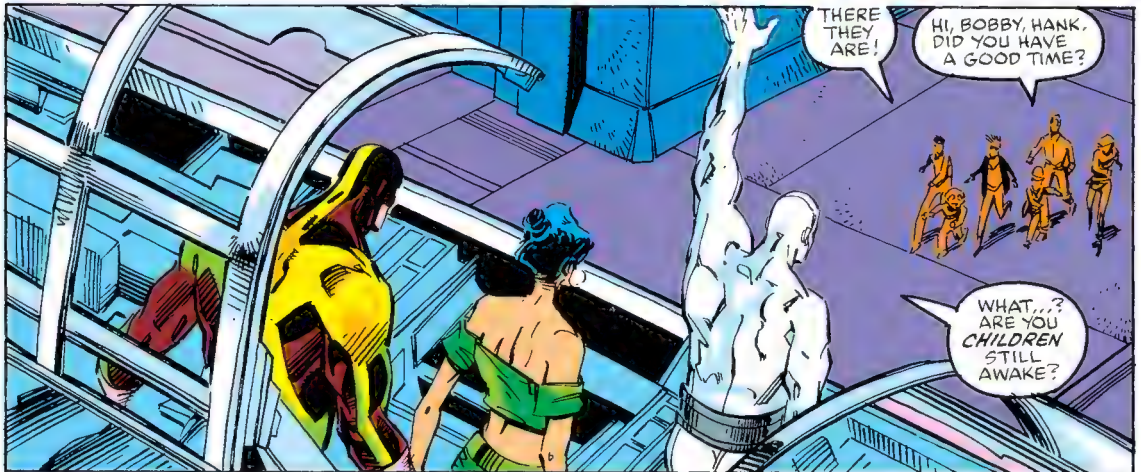
I JUST WISH THERE WAS A MORE... SPECTACULAR WAY I COULD THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE.

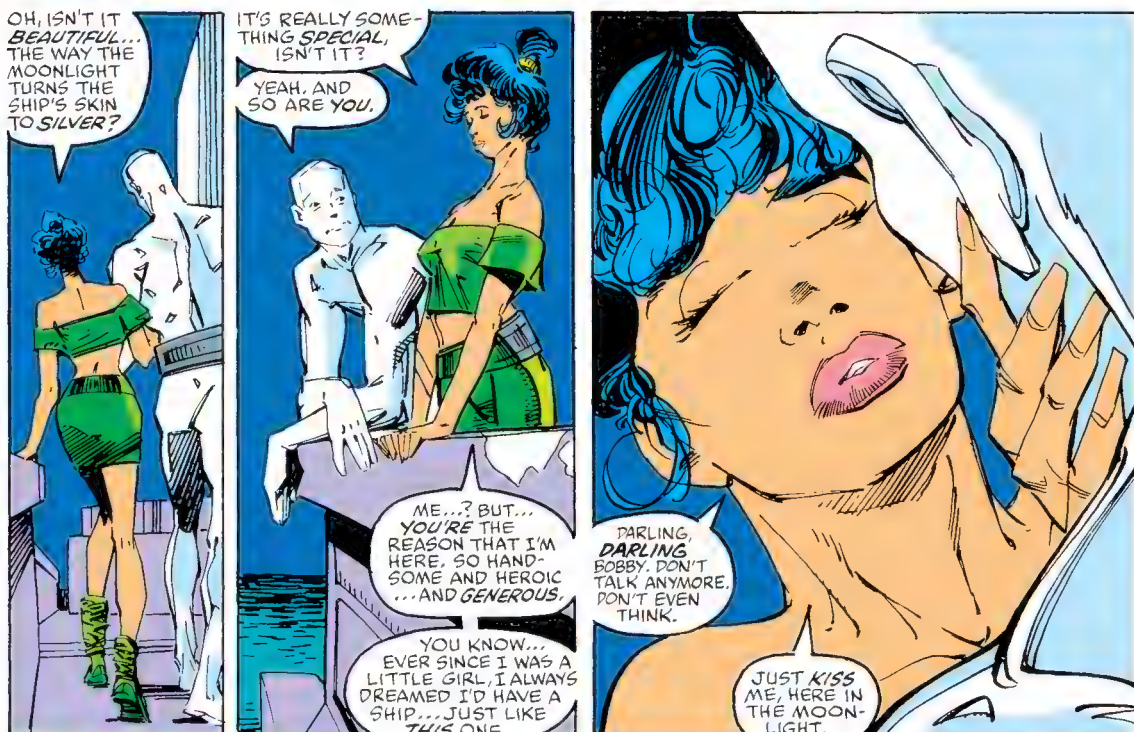
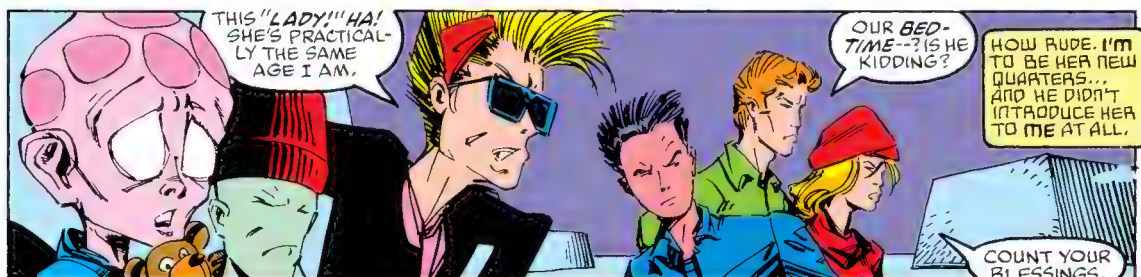
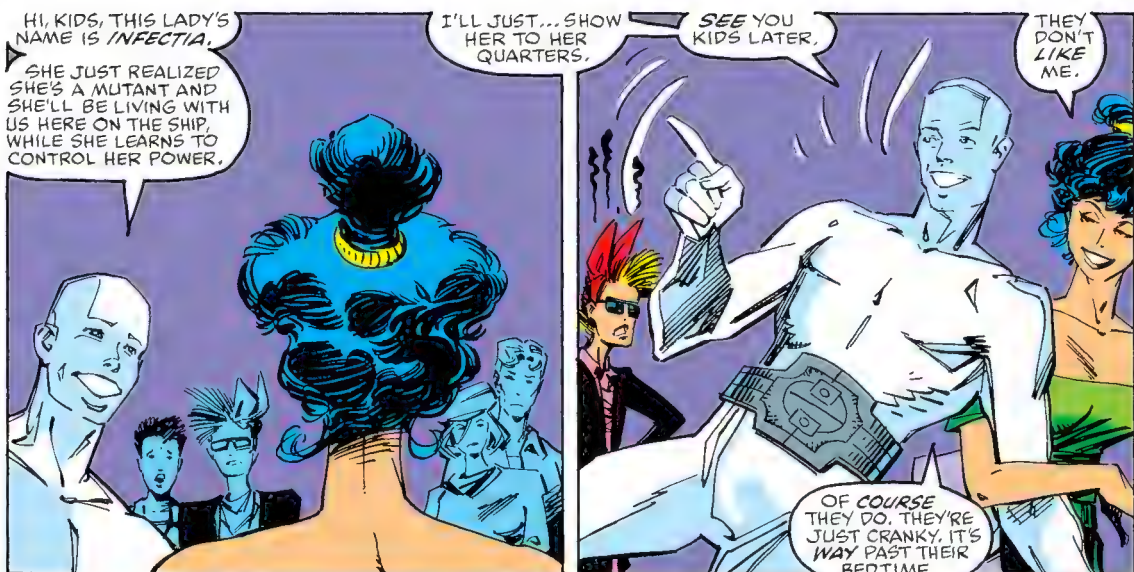
BUT, ICEMAN...

NOT NOW, BEAST.









NEXT ISSUE: SEE INFECTIA MUTATE A MUTANT!
LEARN THE LOCATION OF SCOTT'S BABY!
MEET THE TERRIFYING ORPHAN MAKER!
THRILL TO THE RETURN OF CAMERON HODGE!

DON'T MISS--
KISS OFF!
SEE YOU IN 30!

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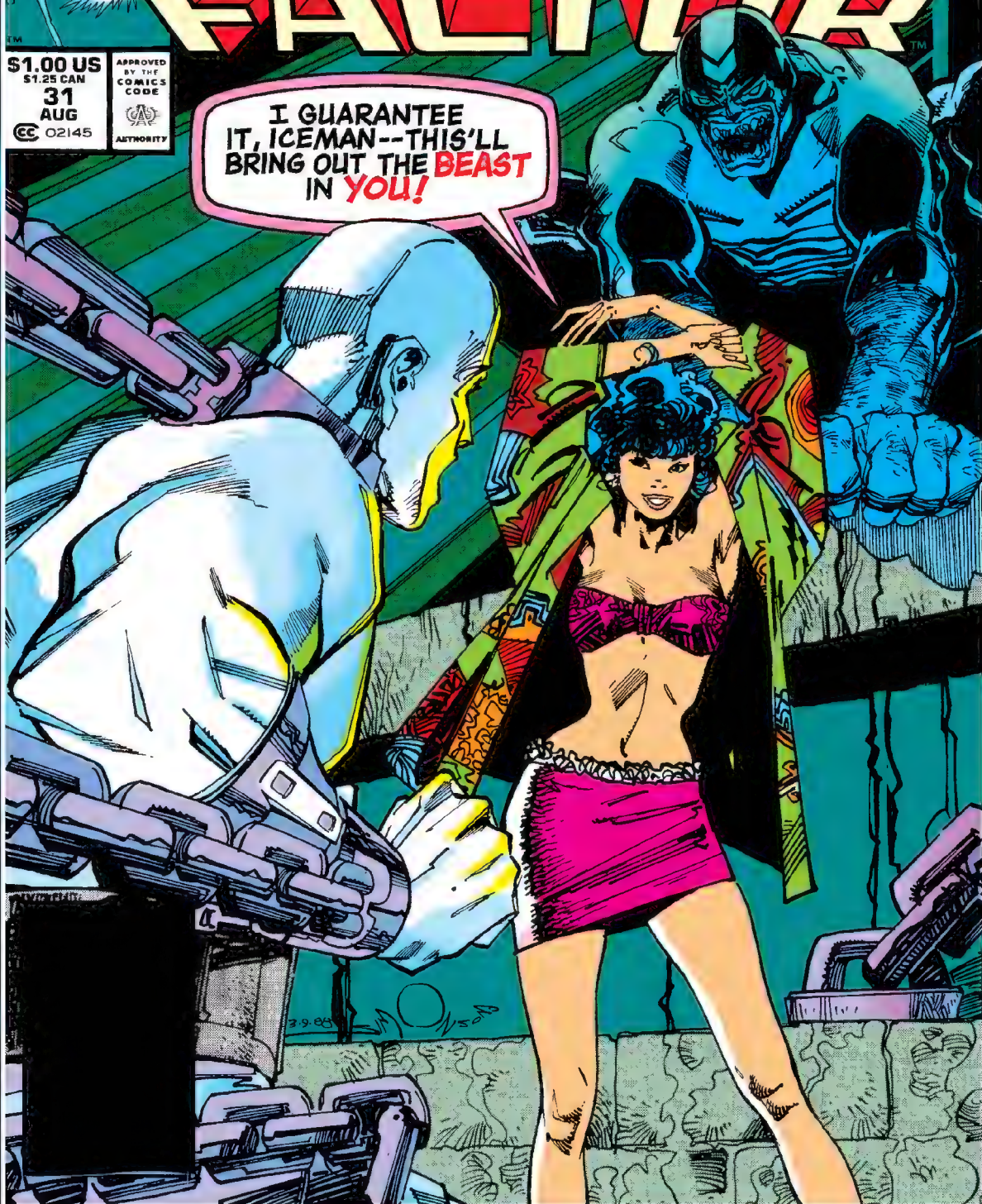
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



AUTHORITY

X-FACTOR™

I GUARANTEE
IT, ICEMAN--THIS'LL
BRING OUT THE **BEAST**
IN **YOU!**



Stan Lee presents

KISS OFF!

SOMEWHERE IN THE ATLANTIC, ON X-FACTOR'S SENTIENT SHIP...



"A BOY. A GIRL. A SILVER
MOON. SO VERY, *VERY*
ROMANTIC. A LITTLE
MOOD MUSIC, MAESTRO
...IF YOU PLEASE..."

LOUISE SIMONSON
WRITER

WALTER SIMONSON
PENCILER

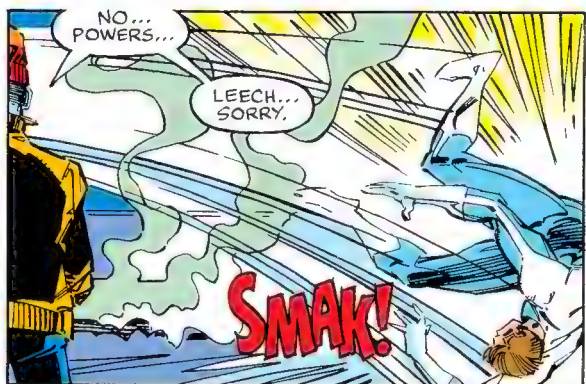
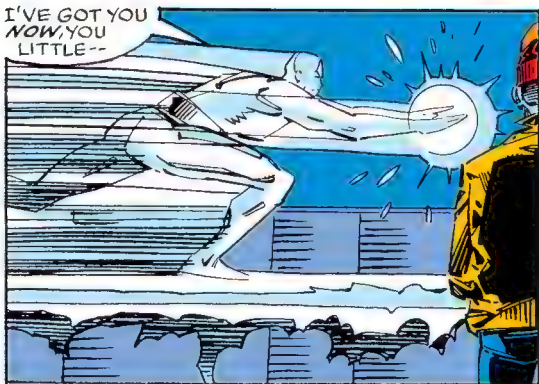
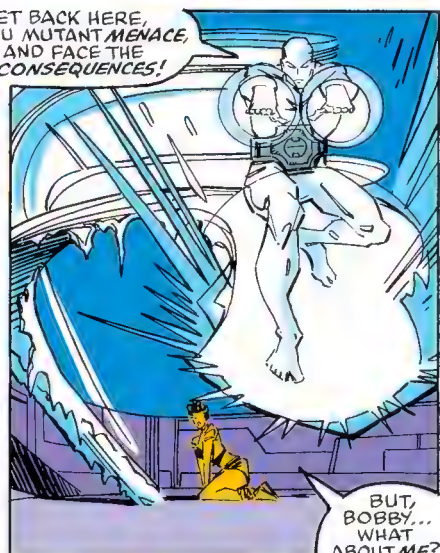
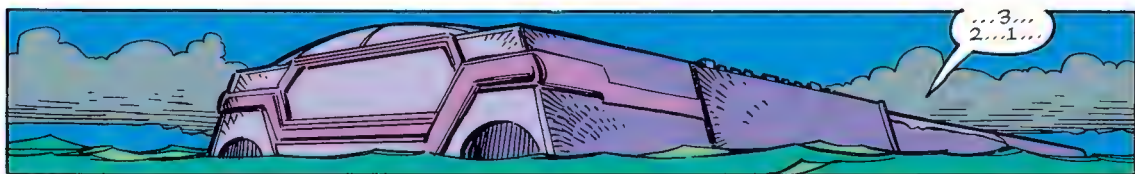
BOB WIACEK
INKER

JOE ROSEN
LETTERER

GREG WRIGHT
COLORIST

BOB HARRAS
EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF





YEAH... I BET YOU ARE.

YA KNOW, KID, YOU'RE UP WAY PAST YOUR BED TIME.

BOBBY UP... PAST BED TIME... TOO!



GOTCHA!

LOOK, BEAST, HE BUMMED ME OUT!

YIKES!

HE WAS GONNA KISS THAT BIMBO.

I MADE A LITTLE TIME BOMB... REALLY...!

I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT... HIM...

IT'S OKAY, I DON'T BLAME YA. I DON' WANT HER HERE EITHER!

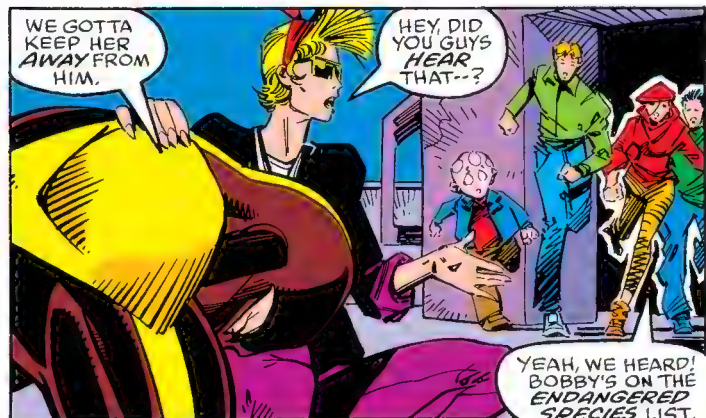
SHE'S BAD... I KNOW IT, SHE'S DANGEROUS... AN' MAYBE EVEN SHE WANTS TA KILL BOBBY...

HE WON'T LISSSEN TA ME 'CAUSE THAT HORSEMAN TOUCHED ME AN' MADE ME DUMB...

... BUT WHEN WE WERE IN THE CITY I SAW SUMPTIN' ONLY...



... ONLY I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS... 'CEPT IT WAS BAD... AN' I'M SCARED... I'M REALLY SCARED...!

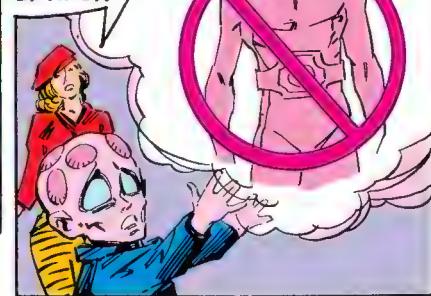


WE GOTTA KEEP HER AWAY FROM HIM.

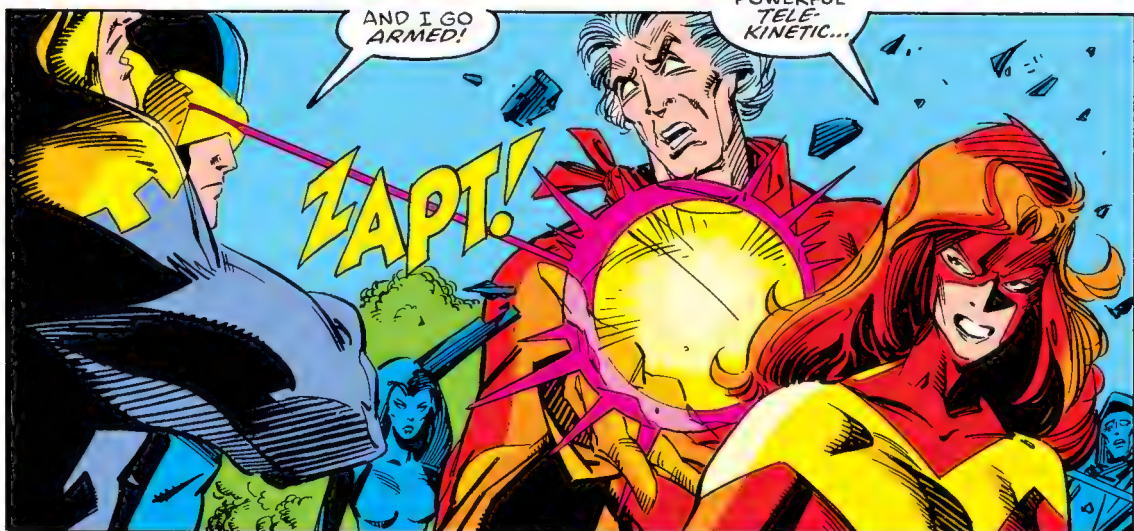
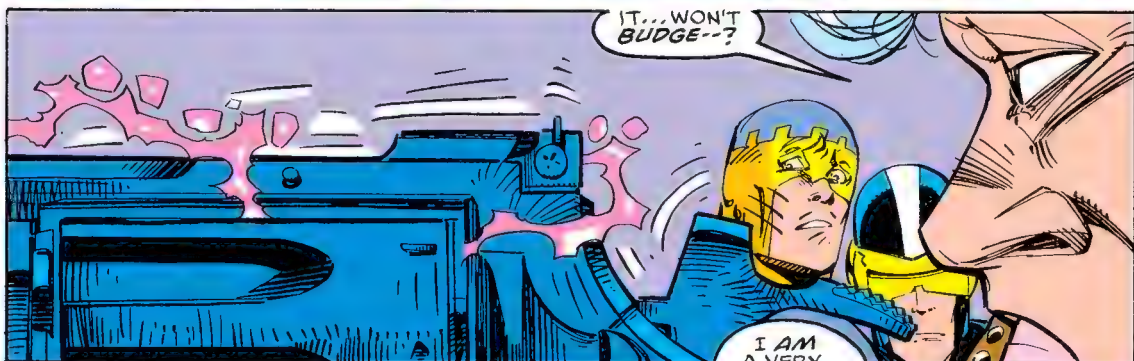
HEY, DID YOU GUYS HEAR THAT--?

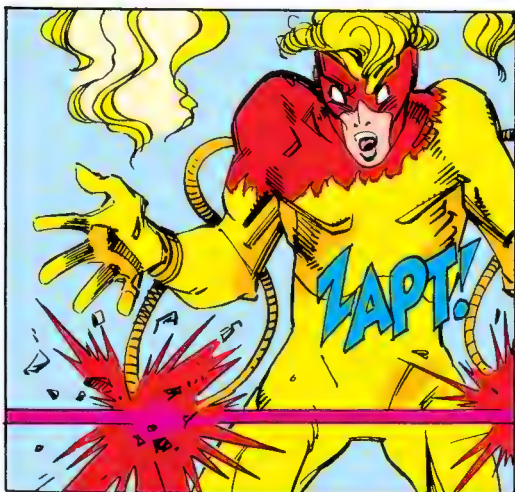
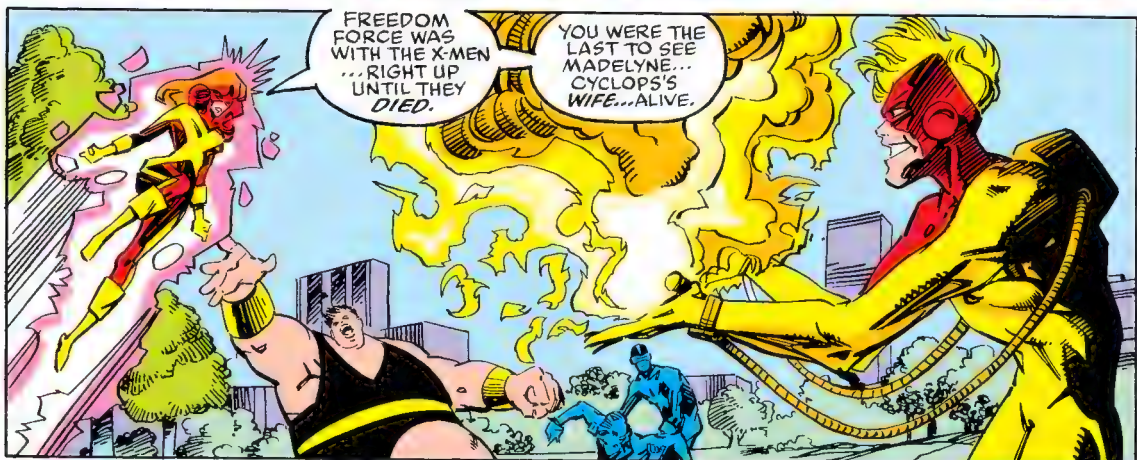
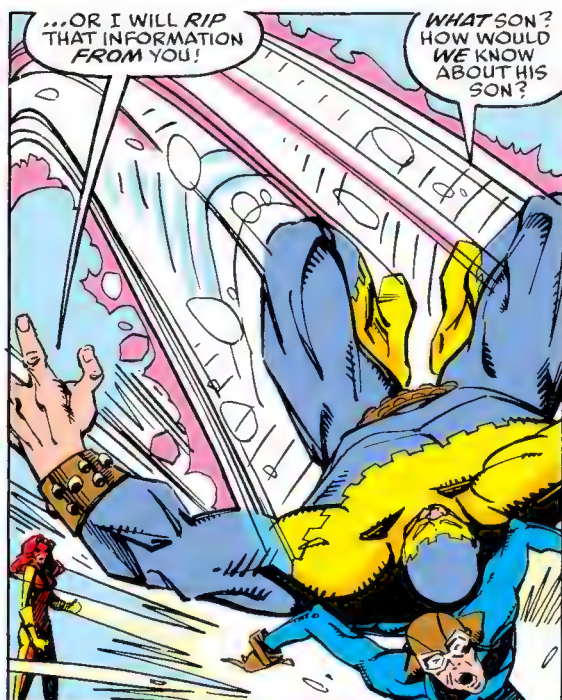
YEAH, WE HEARD! BOBBY'S ON THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST.

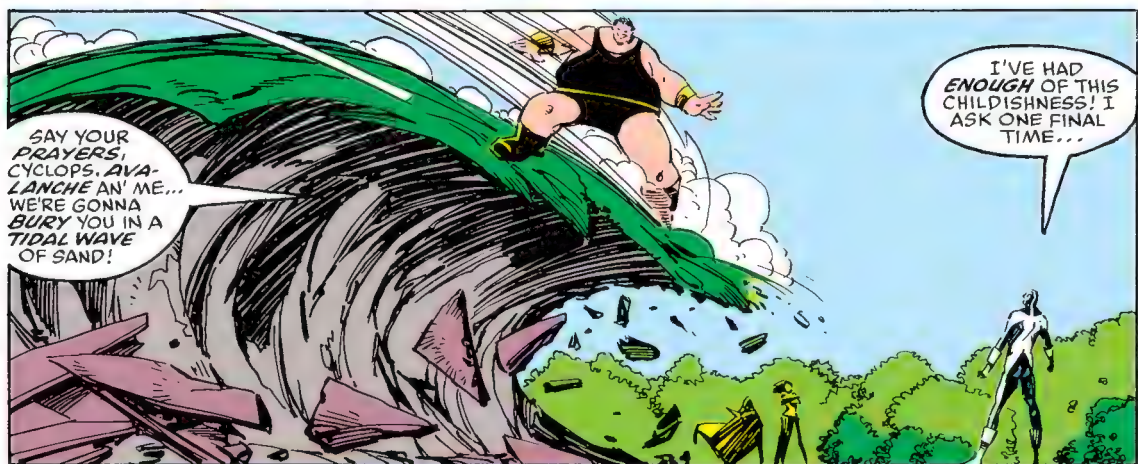
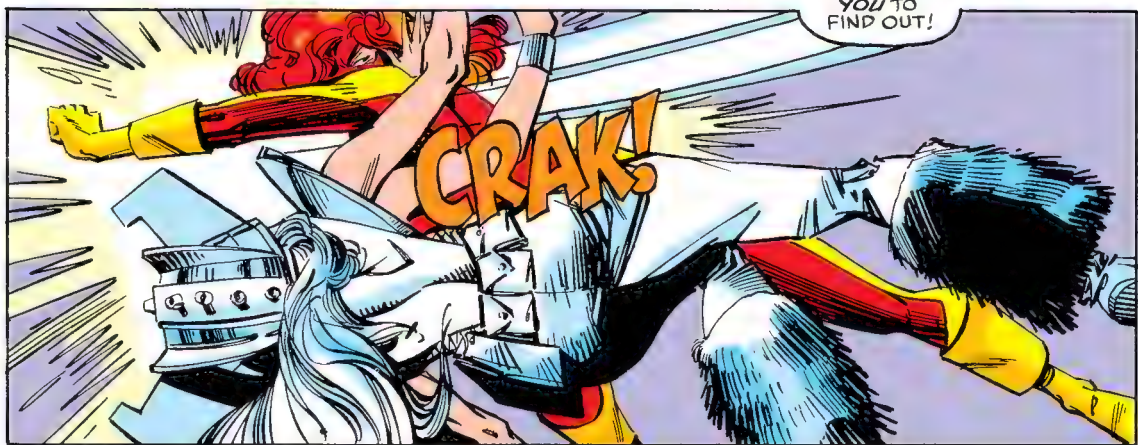
SO, WHILE CYCLOPS AND MARVEL GIRL ARE IN DALLAS, IT'S UP TO US TO KEEP HIM FROM GOING EXTINCT!



WHILE HALF A CONTINENT AWAY...







WHILE ON BOARD THE SHIP...



I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT, INFECTIA.

THESE KIDS THAT X-FACTOR RESCUED... THEY'RE MUTANTS, TOO, BORN WITH POWERS THEY'RE JUST LEARNING TO CONTROL.

AND THEY CAN'T HELP SOMETIMES. WELL... ACTING LIKE KIDS! IT... SHOULDN'T HAPPEN AGAIN!

GOOD. BECAUSE, TONIGHT, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD...

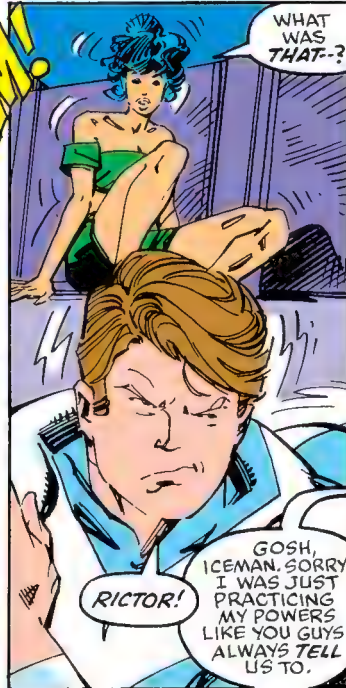


...IS YOUR LIPS...



...ON MINE...!

WHAT'S HE WAITING FOR--?



WHAT WAS THAT--?

RICTOR!

GOSH, ICEMAN. SORRY. I WAS JUST PRACTICING MY POWERS LIKE YOU GUYS ALWAYS TELL US TO.



AT TWO IN THE MORNING?

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TURN IN, BOBBY. YOU'RE BEGINNING TO SOUND AWFUL CRABBY!



YOU BET I'M CRABBY, INFECTIA.

THIS IS A GIGANTIC SHIP... AND TONIGHT, WE CAN'T SEEM TO BE ALONE ON IT!

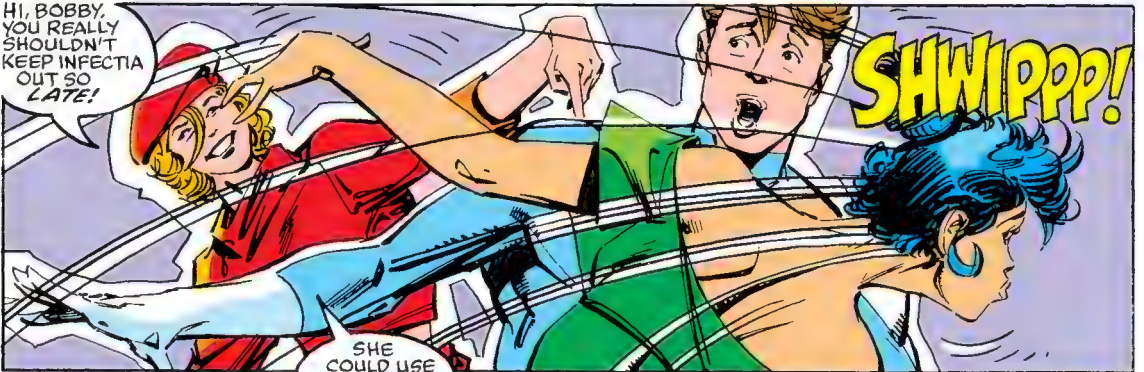


WE'RE ALONE NOW... DARLING, ON THE FARTHEST DECK FROM THE RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS...

... FAR FROM PRYING EYES... AND CHILDISH INTERFERENCE!



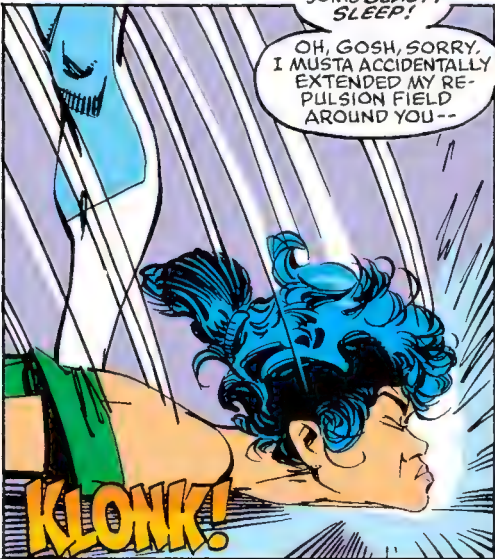
KISS ME!



HI, BOBBY, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T KEEP INFECTIA OUT SO LATE!

SHWIPPPP!

SHE COULD USE SOME BEAUTY SLEEP!



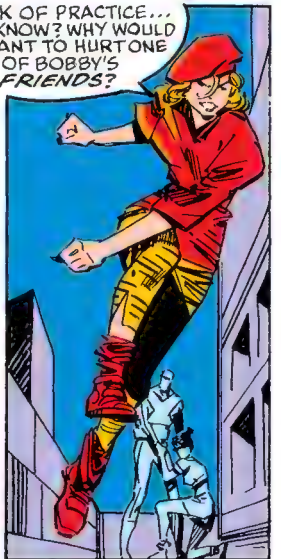
OH, GOSH, SORRY. I MUSTA ACCIDENTALLY EXTENDED MY RE- PULSION FIELD AROUND YOU--

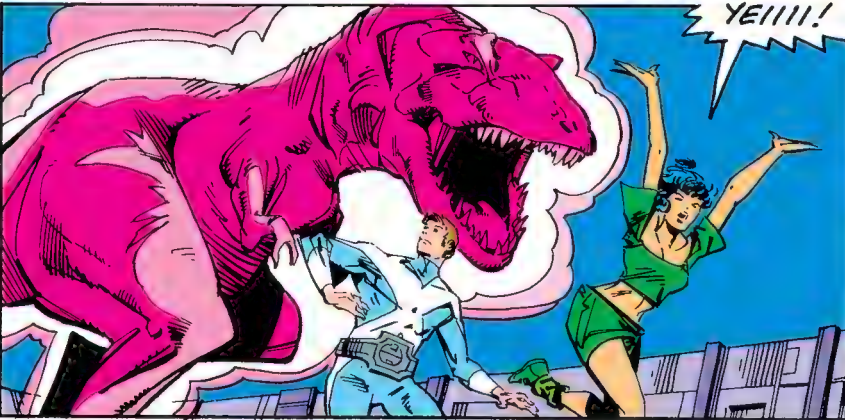
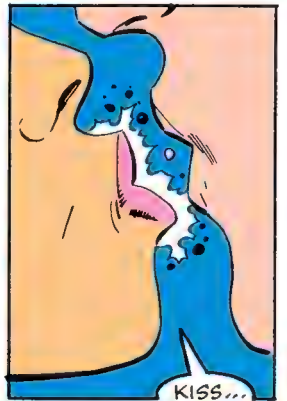
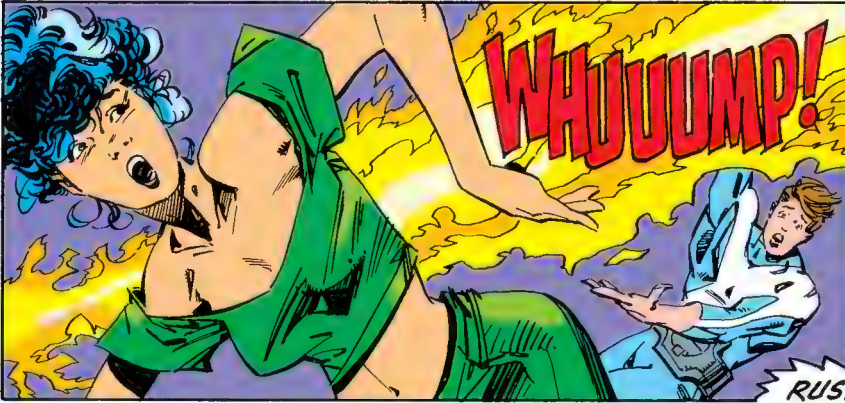
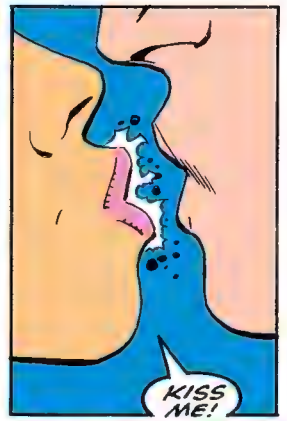
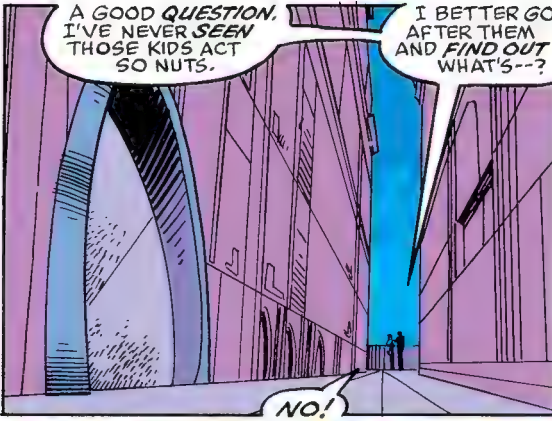
KLONK!



ACCIDENTALLY, SKIDS--?

LACK OF PRACTICE... YA KNOW? WHY WOULD I WANT TO HURT ONE OF BOBBY'S FRIENDS?





ENOUGH! I'VE HAD IT!
THEY OBVIOUSLY HATE
ME! I'M GOING TO BED!

OF COURSE,
YOU COULD--

SLAM!

THE LADY HAS
STATED HER
PREFERENCE
FOR REST,
ICEMAN, IT IS
TIME YOU TOOK
YOUR REST,
AS WELL!

THERE HE GOES... AND
DOES HE LOOK MAD?
GOOD GOING, SHIP!

IT WAS MY
PLEASURE!

I'M EXHAUSTED.
C'MON, LET'S GET
SOME REST.

I CAN'T
WAIT FOR
CYKE AND
JEAN TO
GET BACK.

YOU WERE IN ON IT, TOO,
WEREN'T YOU, SHIP?

BUT DON'T YOU
WORRY, SWEETIE,
I CAN DEAL WITH
YOU!

I BEG
YOUR
PARDON--?

SMOOCH!

SEE? MY OWN
MUTANT ABILITY
ALLOWS ME TO
ALTER OBJECTS
ON A MOLECU-
LAR LEVEL.

NOOO! APOCALYPSE
...MY OLD MASTER...
USED THAT METHOD
TO ENSLAVE ME!

OH, I'D HATE
TO HAVE TO
DO THAT.

SO
WE'LL
JUST KEEP
THIS LITTLE
INCIDENT A
SECRET...
WON'T
WE?

AND NOW--
A BED?

THERE, SEE HOW
NICE IT IS WHEN
WE COOPERATE...?
I DO SO WANT US TO
BE GOOD FRIENDS.

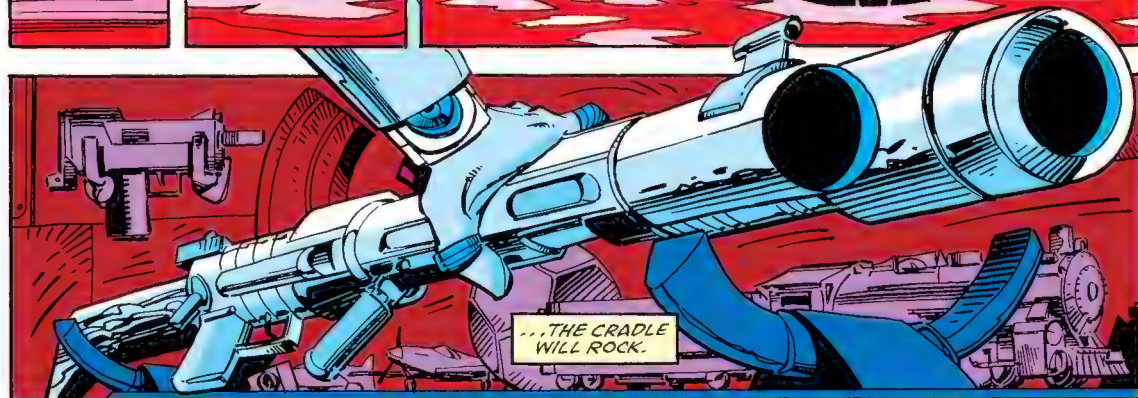
ZIIP!

OMAHA, NEBRASKA...

ROCK-A-BYE,
BABY...

...IN THE
TREE TOP...

WHEN THE
WIND BLOWS...



WHEN THE BOUGH
BREAKS...

...THE
CRADLE
WILL
FALL...

AND DOWN
WILL COME
BABY...

BLAM
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!

...CRADLE
AND ALL.

DAWN...

YOU MEAN
THE KIDS
AREN'T UP
YET?

OF COURSE
THEY AREN'T!
THEY WERE
AWAKE TILL
THREE!

SO
WERE
WE.

HEY...WHAT IS THIS?
DON'T YOU WANT ME
TO KISS YOU?

NOT...RIGHT
NOW. IT'S NOT
THAT I'M
PARANOID
ABOUT IT OR
ANYTHING...

...IT'S JUST THAT
A SATURDAY
MORNING BRUNCH
IN MY TOWNHOUSE
WOULD BE SOOO
ROMANTIC.

DADDY DID
MOST OF HIS
RESEARCH THERE
I JUST KNOW
YOU'LL FIND IT
FASCINATING.

I FIND YOU
FASCINATING.

SO...WHAT
DOES A GIRL
HAVE TO DO
TO GET A PLANE
AROUND
HERE--?

BOBBY, PERHAPS YOU
SHOULD STAY HERE TO
SUPERVISE YOUR ERRANT
CHARGES?

OH, DON'T BE
SILLY, SHIP.
THE **BEAST**
IS HERE.

AND SO ARE YOU. AND THE
LAST THING YOU WANT IS
TO DISAPPOINT US - **KISS**
KISS - ISN'T IT?

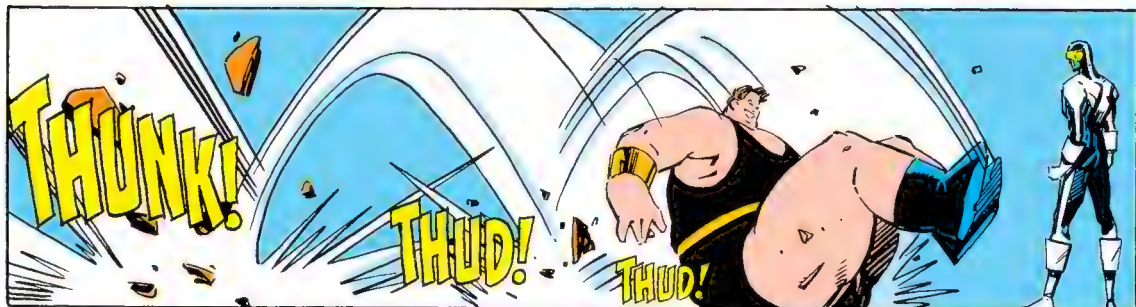
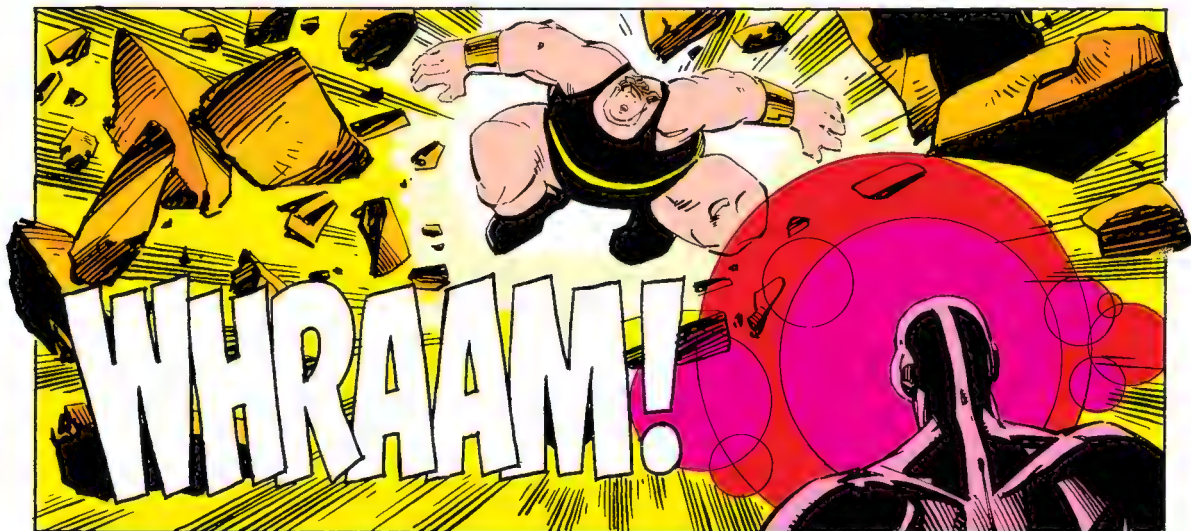
SPRANG!

GOSH, INFECTIA, THE
KIDS MAY BE UNFRIENDLY...
BUT THE **SHIP** SURE SEEMS
TO LIKE YOU!

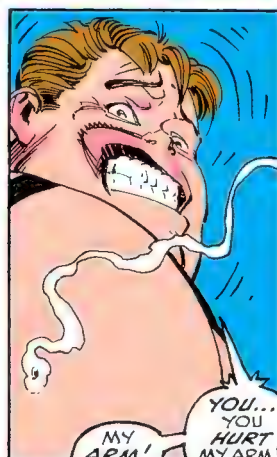
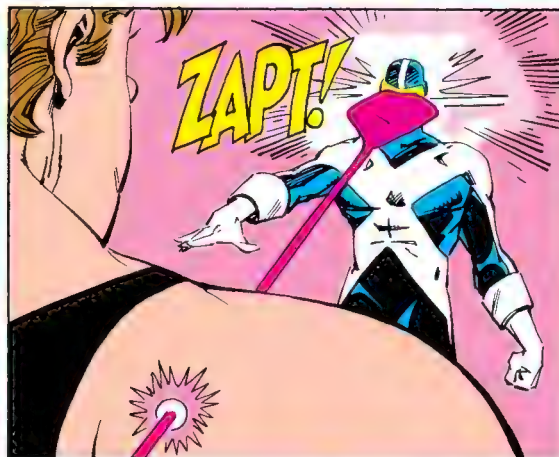
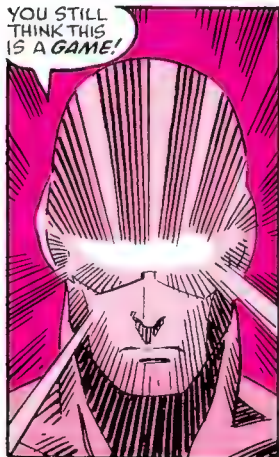
OH...
I KNOW.
AND I'M SO
TOUCHED.

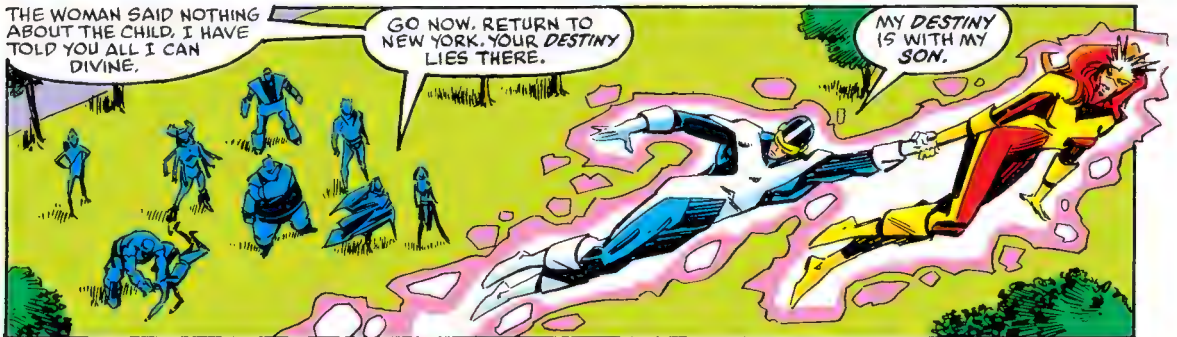
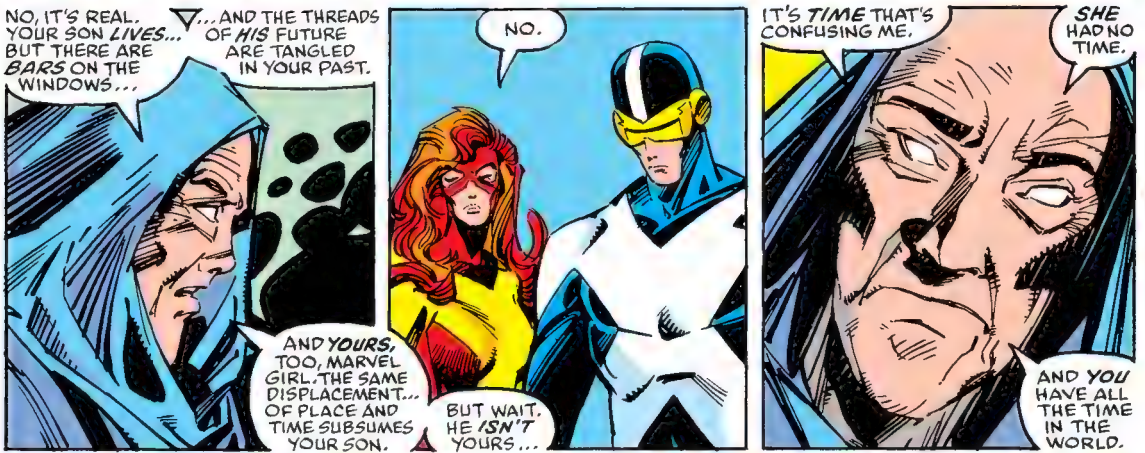
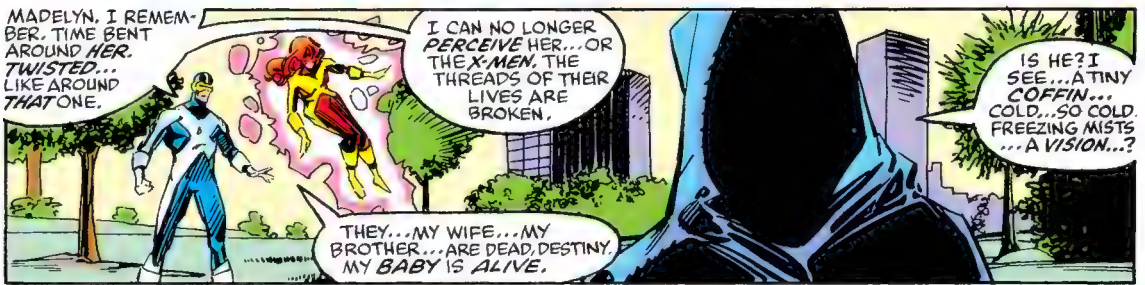
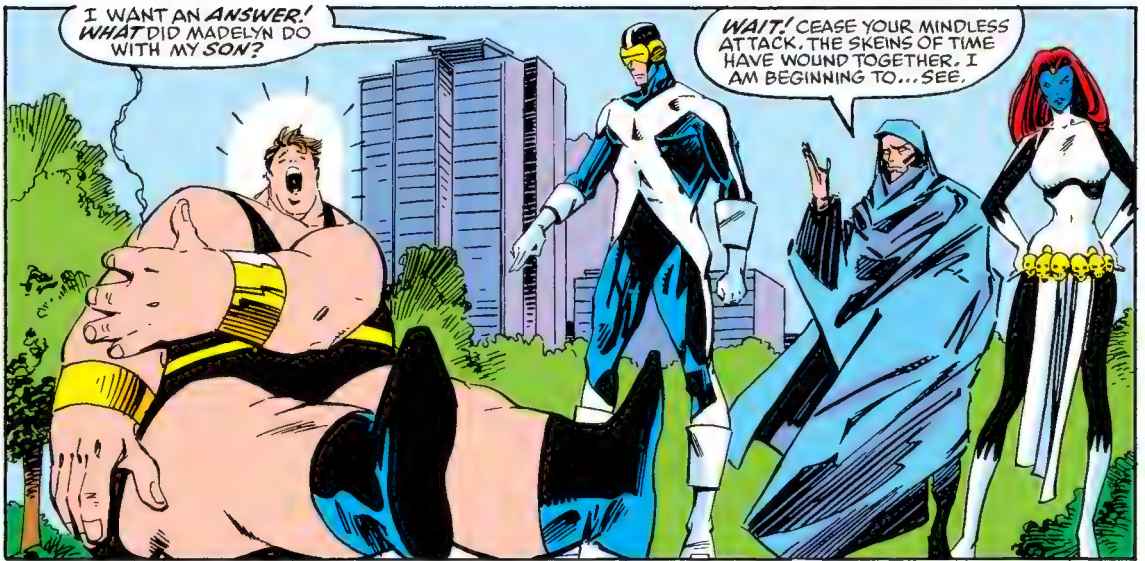
IT'S AMAZING,
ISN'T IT, HOW
MUCH THE
TRUST AND
ADMIRATION
OF A CREATURE
LIKE THAT CAN
MEAN TO YOU!

AND IN DALLAS...



YOU STILL THINK THIS IS A GAME!





CHICAGO.

ALL RIGHT,
ROLL THE FILM.

THAT'S
SUPPOSEDLY
WARREN
WORTHINGTON?

BUT WORTHINGTON...
LOST HIS WINGS, AS
WE HAVE AMPLE
REASON TO KNOW.

NONETHELESS,
WE BELIEVE
THAT'S
WORTHINGTON...

...THAT HE
WAS SOMEHOW
SAVED AND
TRANSFORMED
BY THE MUTANT
APOCALYPSE.

YOU CAN SEE
HOW DANGEROUS
HE'S BECOME. HE HAS
DECIMATED SEVERAL
OF OUR INSTALLA-
TIONS.

AND ALWAYS HE ASKS
THE SAME QUESTION--
WHERE IS CANDY
SOUTHERN?

ONCE HIS LOVER..-?

THE TERMINATION
ORDER HAS BEEN
SUSPENDED PENDING
YOUR REVIEW.

EXCELLENT.
I WILL CONTINUE
TO MONITOR THE
SITUATION.

WORTHINGTON
IS WORKING
HIS WAY HERE...
TO THE TOP.

I AM
EXPECTING
HIM. HE IS
NOT EXPECT-
ING ME.

BUT, GENTLE-
MEN, HE IS
MERELY AN
ARCHETYPE OF
A DANGEROUS
RACE.

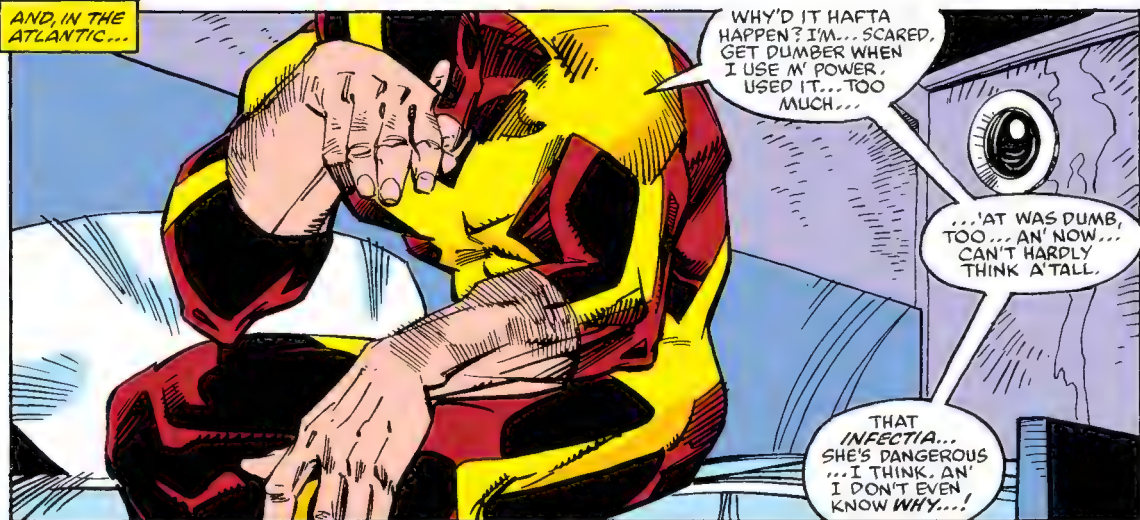
WE HAVE TOLERATED
THE *MUTANTS* AMONG
US FOR TOO LONG.

OUR ORGANIZATION HAS
LOCATED A *NUMBER* OF THEM.
MANY ARE, AS YET, UNAWARE
OF THEIR SPECIAL STATUS.

SO MUCH
THE BETTER.

OUR TROOPS MUST
HUNT THEM DOWN...AND
DESTROY THEM LIKE THE
RABID DOGS THEY ARE.

AND, IN THE ATLANTIC...



WHY'D IT HAFTA HAPPEN? I'M... SCARED. GET DUMBER WHEN I USE M' POWER, USED IT... TOO MUCH...

... 'AT WAS DUMB TOO... AN' NOW... CAN'T HARDLY THINK A TALL.

THAT INFECTIA... SHE'S DANGEROUS... I THINK. AN' I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY...!

I AM FRIGHTENED, TOO, BEAST. SHE KISSED ME. DID SOMETHING TO ME... AND SHE TOLD ME NOT TO TELL...



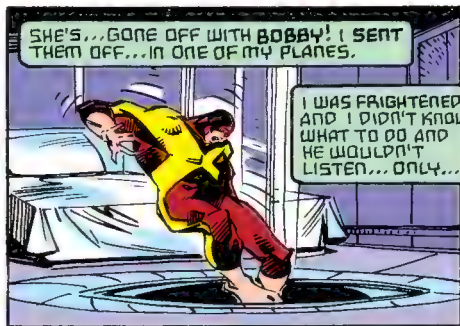
TELL WHAT--?

I... I CAN'T. SHE'LL HURT ME. ONLY... SHE MIGHT HURT BOBBY MORE.

SHE CAN MANIPULATE MATTER ON A MOLECULAR LEVEL, BEAST. AND SHE DOES IT... BY KISSING.

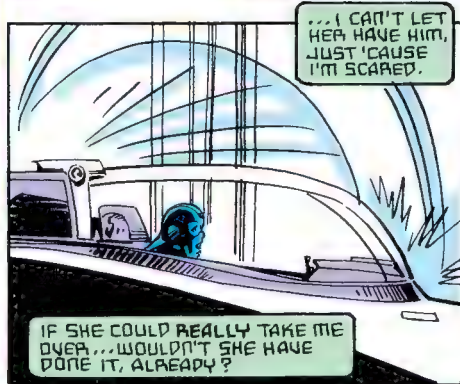


SHE'S... GONE OFF WITH BOBBY! I SENT THEM OFF... IN ONE OF MY PLANES.

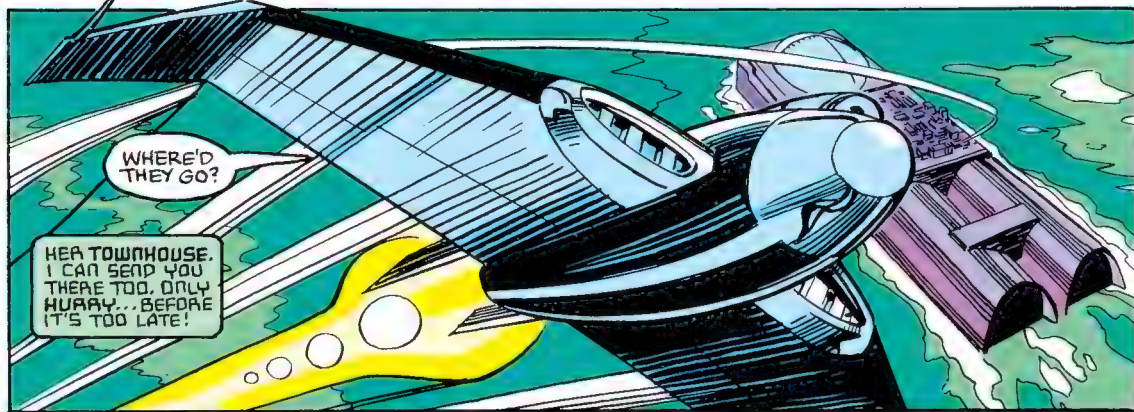


I WAS FRIGHTENED AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO AND HE WOULDN'T LISTEN... ONLY...

... I CAN'T LET HER HAVE HIM, JUST 'CAUSE I'M SCARED.

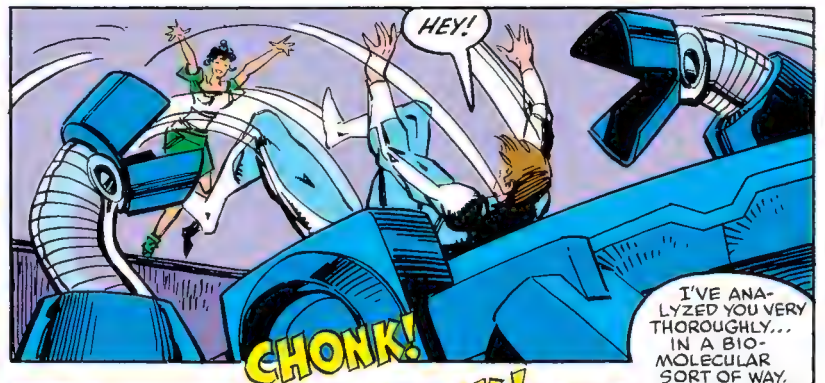
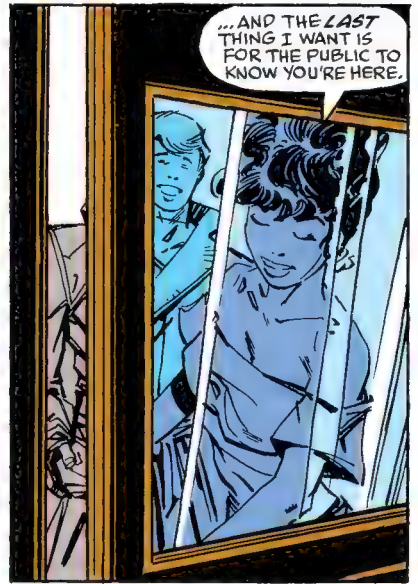
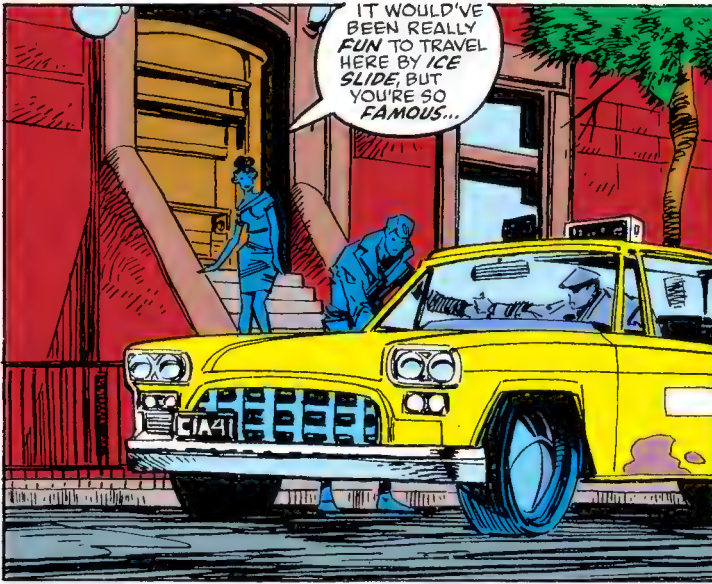


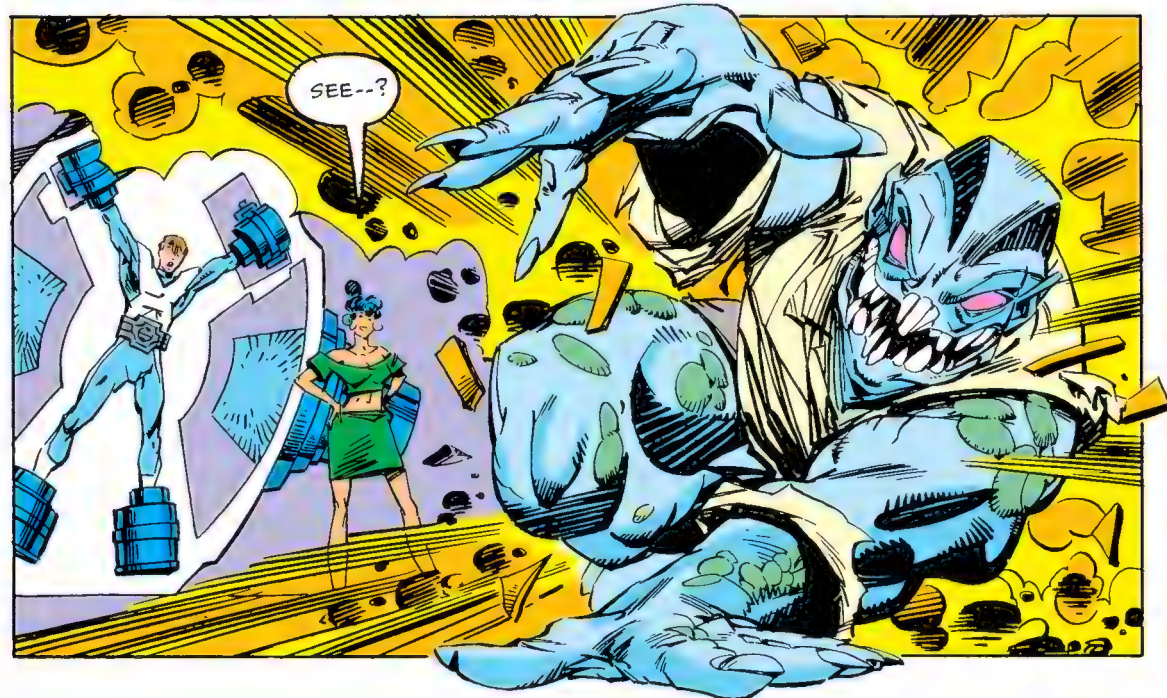
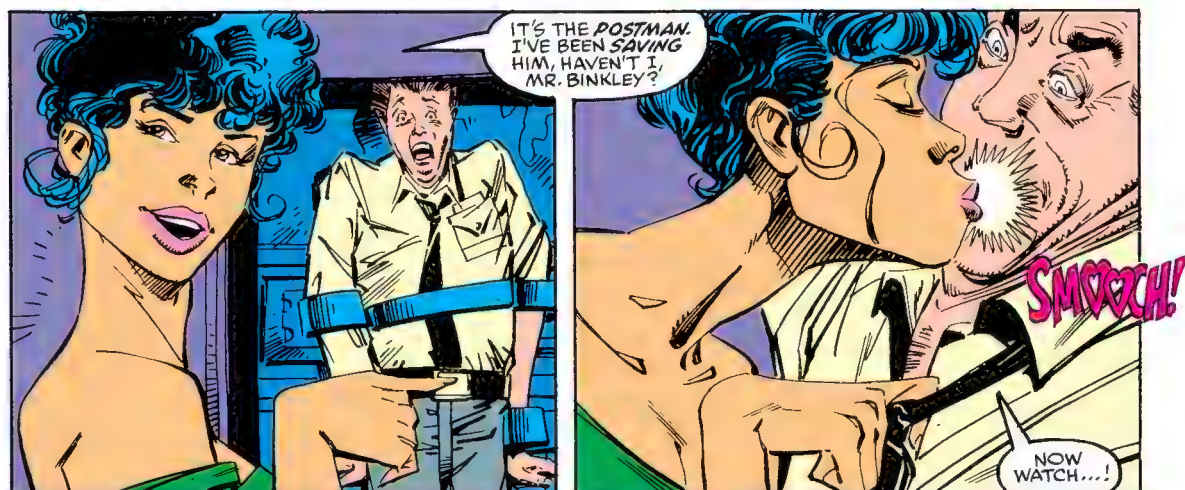
IF SHE COULD REALLY TAKE ME OVER... WOULDN'T SHE HAVE DONE IT, ALREADY?

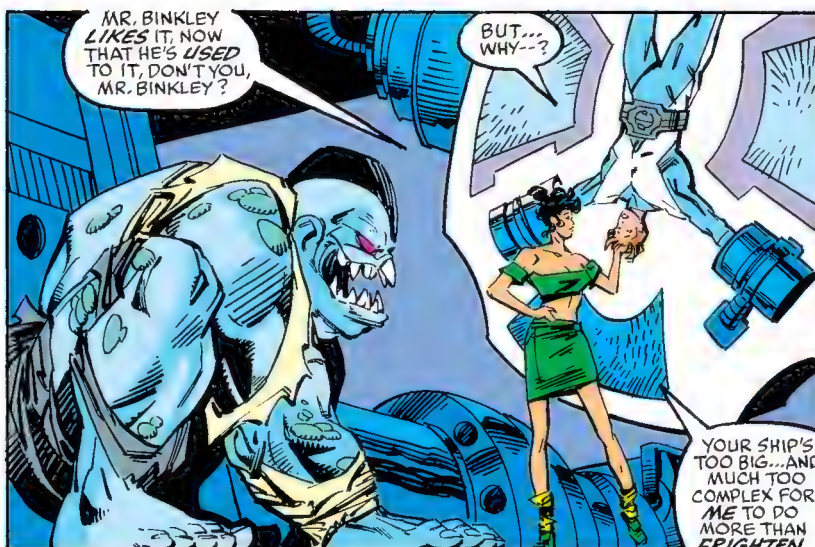


WHERE'D THEY GO?

HER TOWNHOUSE. I CAN SEND YOU THERE TOO. ONLY HURRY... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!



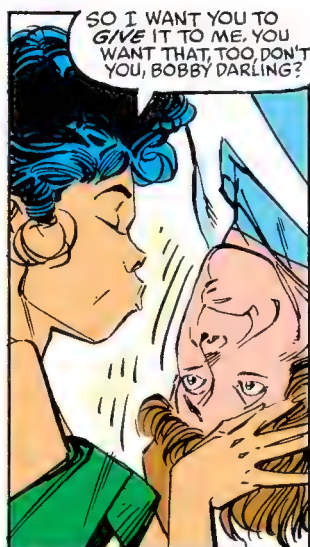




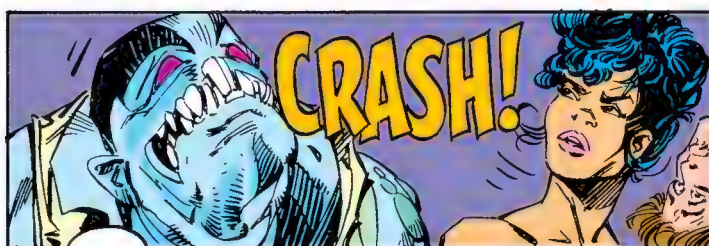
MR. BINKLEY
LIKES IT, NOW
THAT HE'S USED
TO IT, DON'T YOU,
MR. BINKLEY?

BUT...
WHY--?

YOUR SHIP'S
TOO BIG...AND
MUCH TOO
COMPLEX FOR
ME TO DO
MORE THAN
FRIGHTEN.



SO I WANT YOU TO
GIVE IT TO ME. YOU
WANT THAT, TOO, DON'T
YOU, BOBBY DARLING?



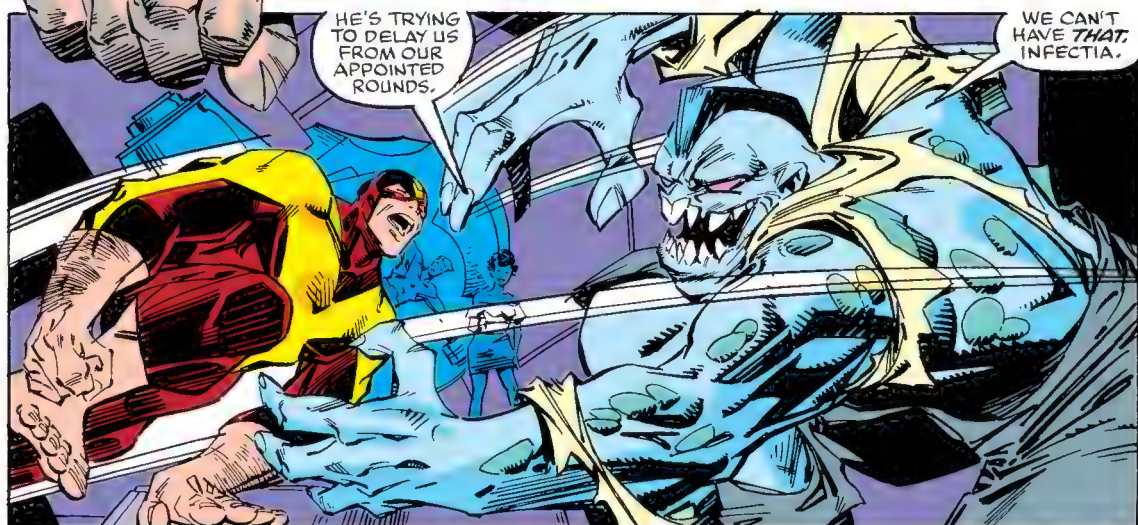
CRASH!

NO!



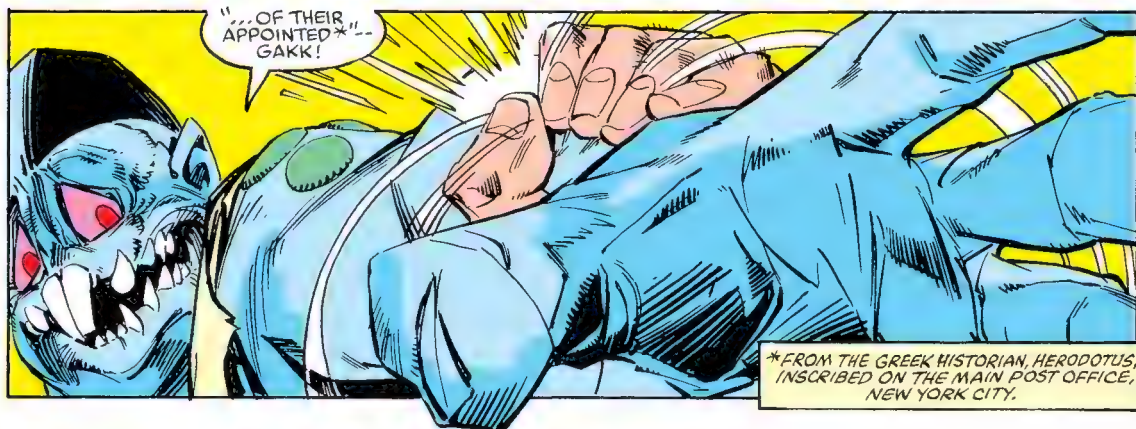
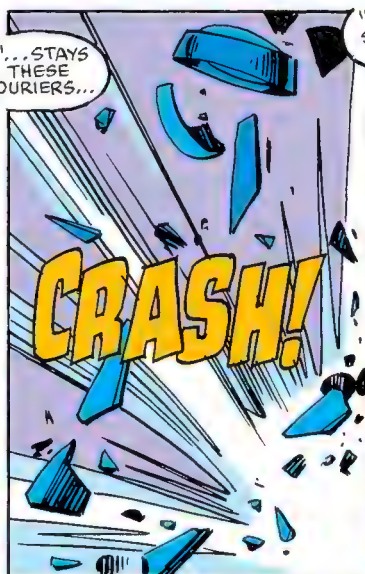
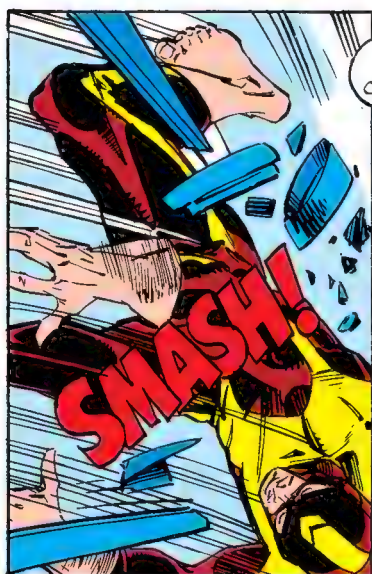
OH, HONESTLY! CAN
WE NEVER BE ALONE?

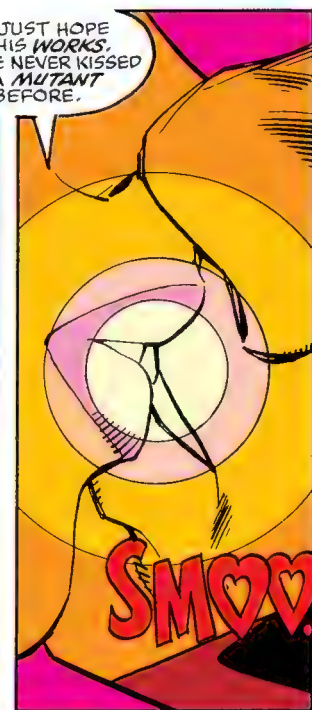
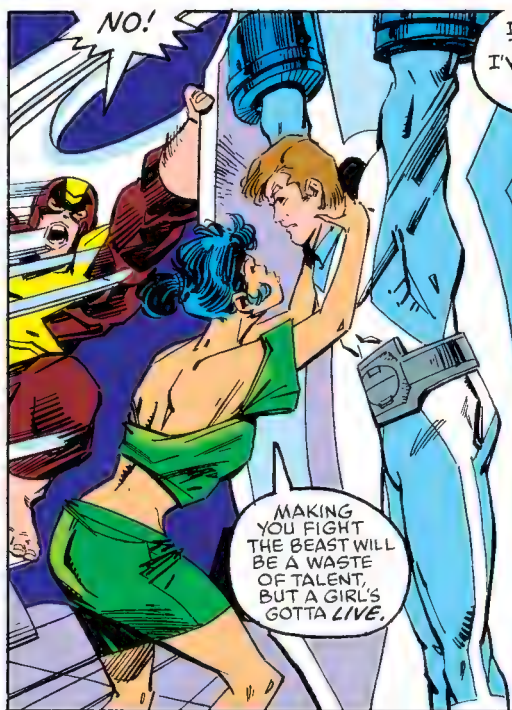
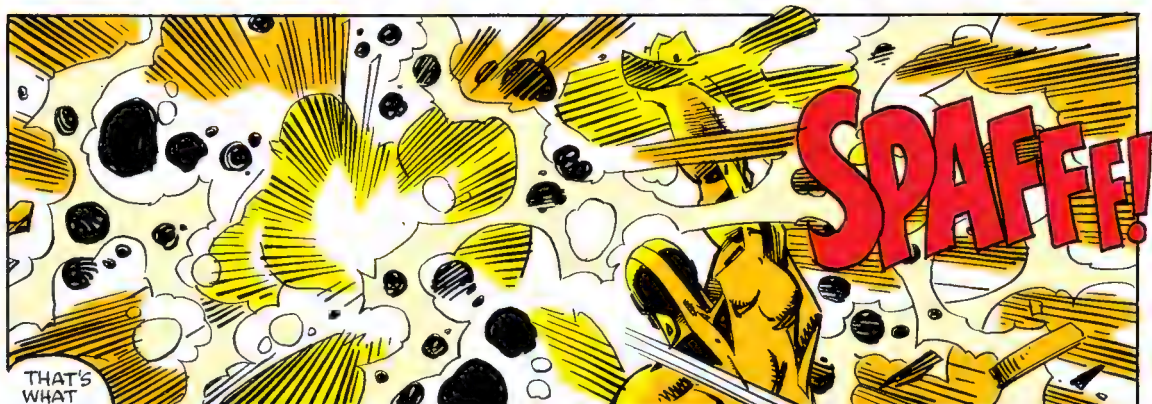
MR. BINKLY...
THAT MAN
SMASHED MY
SKYLIGHT!

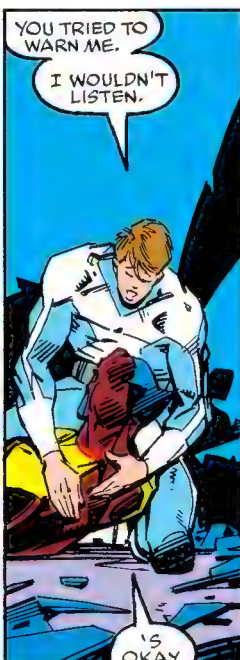


HE'S TRYING
TO DELAY US
FROM OUR
APPOINTED
ROUNDS.

WE CAN'T
HAVE THAT.
INFECTIA.







THE
EXCITEMENT
BUILDS AS
X-FACTOR
FACES

THE CARBON-COPY AVENGERS!

MARVEL®

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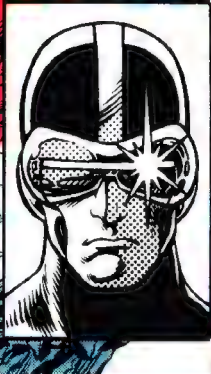
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



AUTHORITY

X-FACTOR

BATTLES THE AVENGERS!



Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

The CARBON COPY AVENGERS



See them
SIMPER!

How they
smile and
WAVE!

Trained APES
frolicking for
the crowd.

MR. MAYOR,
THE AVENGERS
THANKS THE CITY
FOR ITS MANY
YEARS OF
HOSPITALITY...

ON BEHALF
OF THE CITY OF
NEW YORK, I THANK
THE AVENGERS...
AND YOU, TONY
STARK...

...FOR DONATING
THE SITE OF THE
RECENTLY DESTROYED
AVENGERS MANSION
TO NEW YORK CITY.

PLOTTER/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
TOM DEFALCO

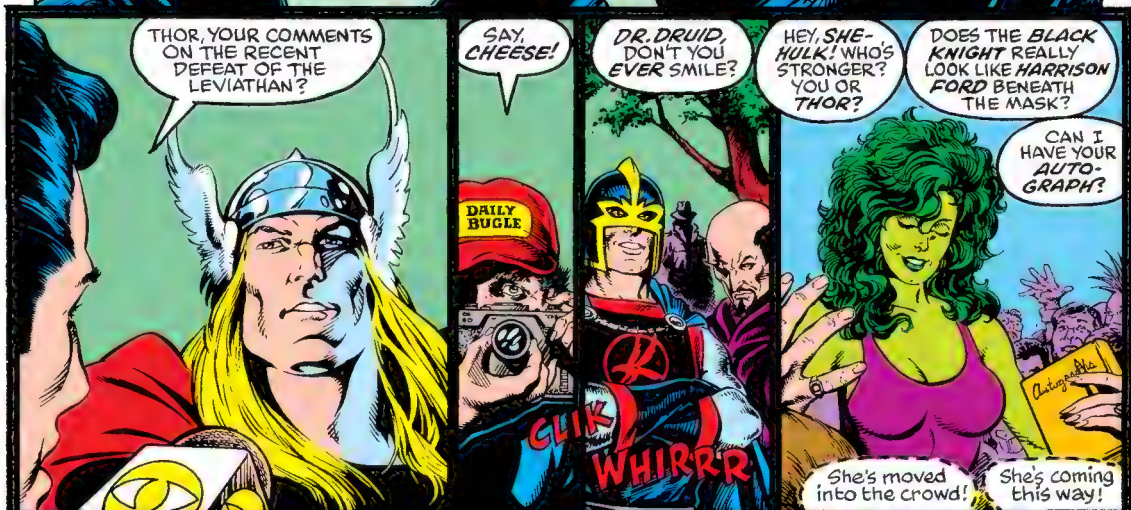
SCRIPTER
LOUISE SIMONSON

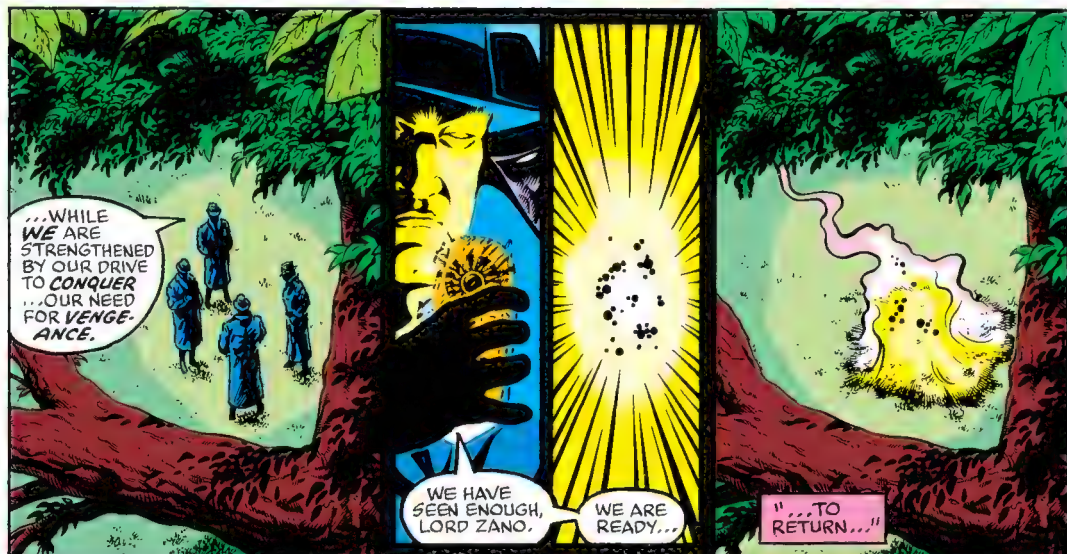
GUEST ARTIST
STEVE LIGHTLE

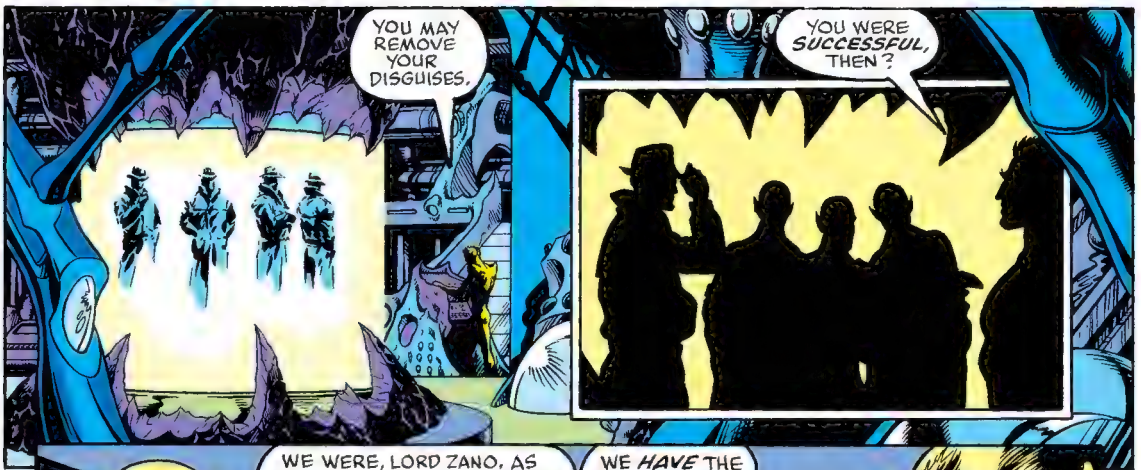
LETTERER
JOE ROSEN

COLORIST
PETRA SCOTese

EDITOR
BOB HARRAS









...WHICH XARTAN TECHNOLOGY WILL PROVIDE!

EXCELLENT ...TRULY EXCELLENT, MY FAITHFUL SOLDIERS.

YOU ARE THE AVENGERS!



THE SOUL OF MY DEAD FATHER CRIES OUT FOR VENGEANCE...

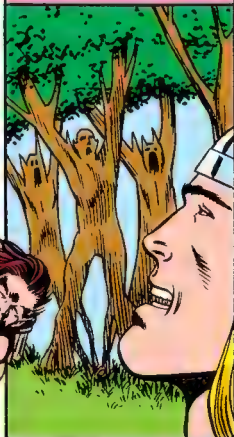
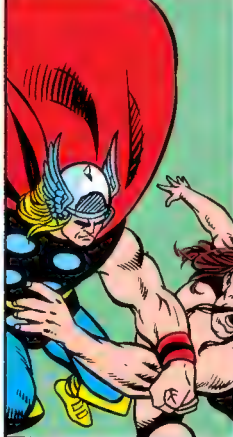
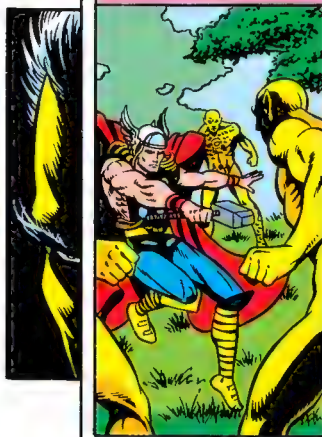
...AGAINST THOR, DEFENDER OF EARTH, WHOM I FOUGHT IN MY FIRST BATTLE.

"NONE OF THE FORMS THAT I ASSUMED VANQUISHED HIM... AND I WAS CRUSHINGLY DEFEATED."

"THOR THEN CONQUERED MY FATHER... FLUNG HIM INTO SPACE..."

"...AND THIS HUMILIATION AT THOR'S HANDS LED TO HIS OUSTER AS SUPREME WARLORD OF XARTA."

"US HE FORCED TO ASSUME THE FORM OF TREES, CONFIDENT THAT WE WOULD REMAIN MINDLESSLY TRAPPED FOREVER."



THE BLIND FOOL! WITHOUT CONSCIOUS CONTROL, OUR FORMS, IN TIME, REVERT. WE HAVE WAKENED VOWING VENGEANCE... AND DETERMINED TO CARRY OUT MY FATHER'S FINAL ORDER AND REDEEM OUR BIRTH-RIGHT!

EVEN NOW, OUR SHIP HEADS FOR HYDROBASE, WHERE WE WILL DESTROY THOR AND THE AVENGERS WHO SUCCOR HIM...

...AND, IN THE FORMS OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES, WE WILL CONQUER THEIR EARTH...

... AND USE THIS WORLD TO LAUNCH AN ARMADA THAT WILL RETAKE XARTA FOR OUR OWN!

LORD ZANO...

WE HAVE BIDED OUR TIME, STUDIED THE EARTH, MADE CERTAIN THAT WE HAVE EVERY ADVANTAGE.

ANOTHER SPACESHIP! THERE... OVER THE ATLANTIC!

"A SPACESHIP...?"

WE GOT HERE AS SOON AS WE COULD. HOW IS HE, SHIP?

THE BEAST IS IN A COMA. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE IS DYING.

IT'S MY FAULT, JEAN. WHILE YOU AND SCOTT WERE AWAY, I WAS... TAKEN IN BY A GIRL THAT I RESCUED...

...A MUTANT NAMED INFECTIA WHO COULD MAKE FLOWERS GROW LARGER WITH A KISS.

IT WAS A GENTLE LITTLE POWER, AND SHE WAS GORGEOUS... AND I FELL FOR HER.

IT TURNS OUT THAT SHE WAS THE ONE WHO MADE THE ANTI-BODIES.* IT SEEMS SHE CAN CHANGE PEOPLE, TOO.

SHE EVEN THREATENED ME.

SHE'D CAPTURED ME... WHEN HANK BROKE IN AND TOOK A KISS THAT WAS MEANT FOR ME.

*SEE X-F#29. --BOB

HE STARTED TO TRANSFORM... LIKE THE ANTI-BODIES TRANSFORMED. THEN HE TURNED NORMAL... AND COLLAPSED.

HE TRIED TO WARN ME ABOUT INFECTIA... BUT I WOULDN'T LISTEN. HIS MIND HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY PESTILENCE...

...AND I THOUGHT... WHAT COULD HE POSSIBLY KNOW ABOUT ANYTHING...? AND NOW...

BUT FOR PESTILENCE'S ATTACK, HIS BODY'S REPAIR SYSTEMS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN OVER-ACTIVATED...

...AND HE WOULD BE DEAD, ALREADY.

SCOTT, WE HAVE TO STAY HERE WITH HIM... IN CASE...

...IN CASE HE DIES, JEAN? LIKE MY BROTHER AND MADDIE DIED? LIKE EVERYONE I LOVE DIES?

AND MY SON... MY BABY... IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE IN DANGER... AND...

...I'M HELPLESS TO STOP ANY OF IT!

DESTINY'S HINTS CONCERNING HIS WHEREABOUTS WERE SO... ORACULAR AND OBSCURE...



WE WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN TO LOOK FOR HIM IN ANY CASE.

PERHAPS I CAN HELP.

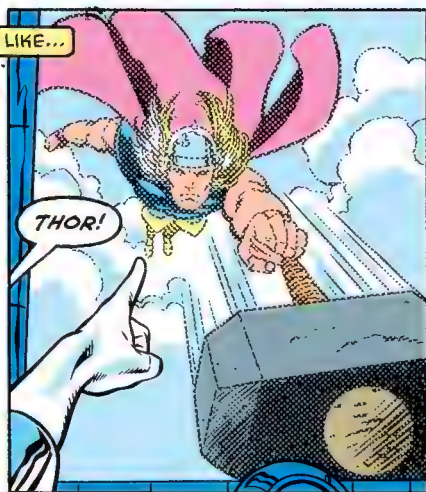


IF YOU WILL FEED THE INFORMATION INTO MY COMPUTERS, PERHAPS I MIGHT BE ABLE TO--

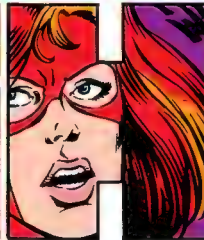
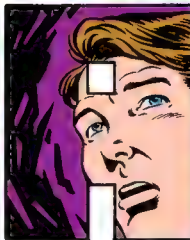
PARDON ME, CYCLOPS, BUT SOMETHING STRANGE IS AP- PROACHING.



IT LOOKS LIKE...



THOR!

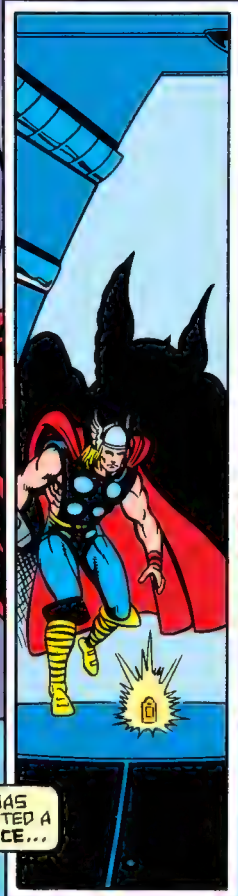


WHAT WAS THAT?

HE HAS SMASHED THROUGH MY HULL. THOR IS OUR FRIEND, IS HE NOT? WHY IS HE DOING THIS--?

I DON'T KNOW, SHIP. BUT WE'RE SURE AS HECK GONNA FIND OUT!

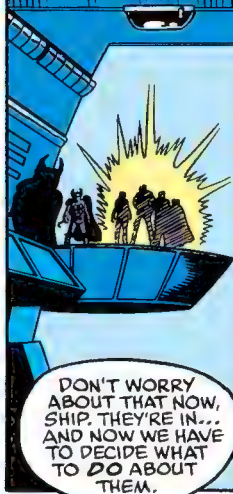
HE HAS PLANTED A DEVICE...



IT'S THE AVENGERS. THEY'VE TELEPORTED INSIDE, BUT ONLY MUTANTS CAN ENTER.

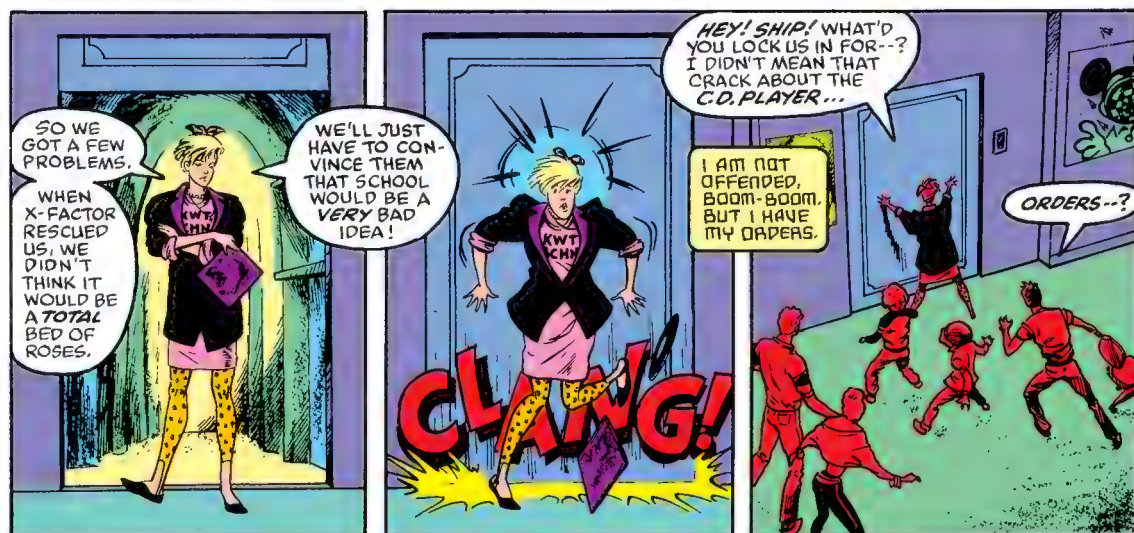
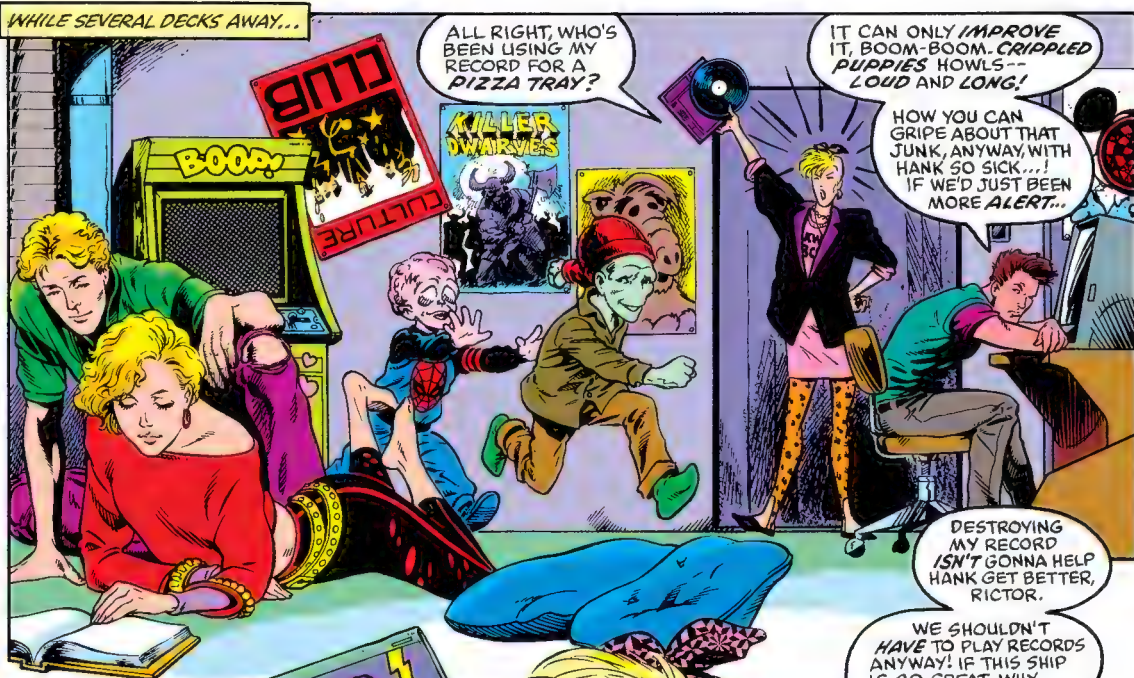
I'VE RUN A CHECK AND THAT PART OF MY PROGRAMMING REMAINS INTACT!

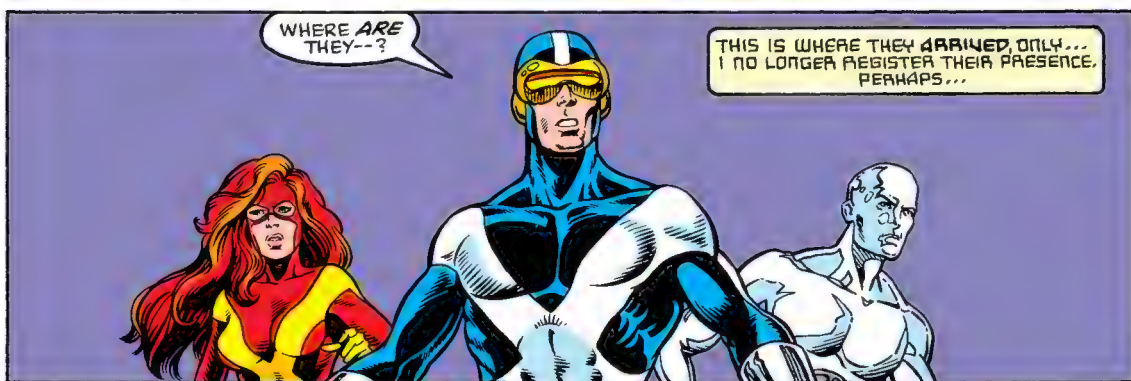
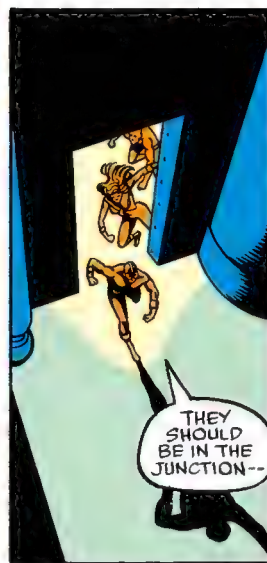
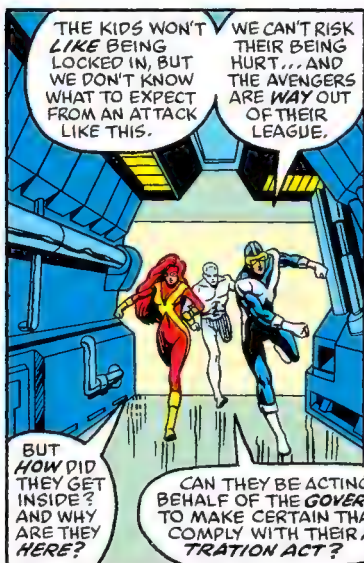
HOW CAN THIS BE? SHOULD I TAKE DEFENSIVE ACTION--? ARE THE AVENGERS SECRETLY MUTANTS...?



DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW, SHIP. THEY'RE IN... AND NOW WE HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM.

WHILE SEVERAL DECKS AWAY...

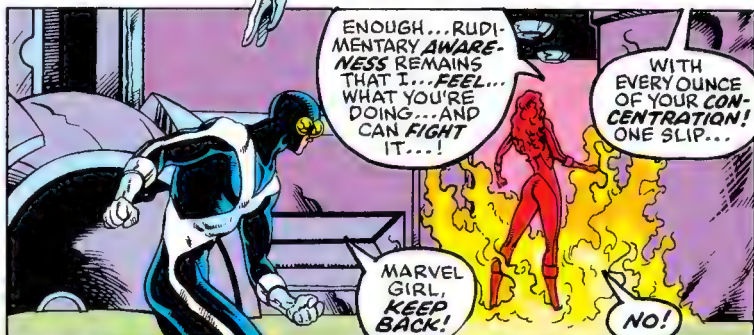
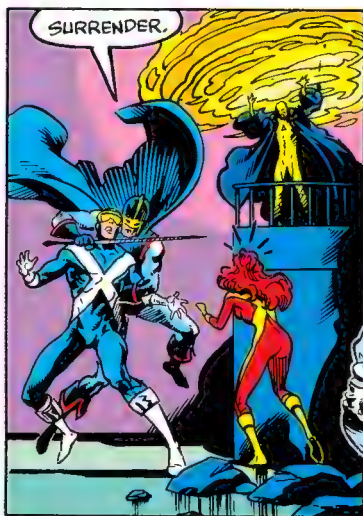


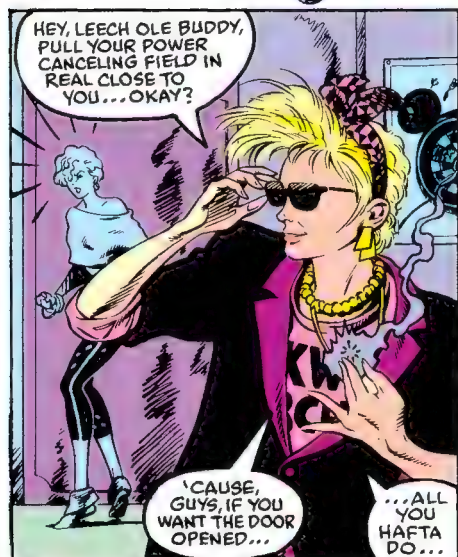
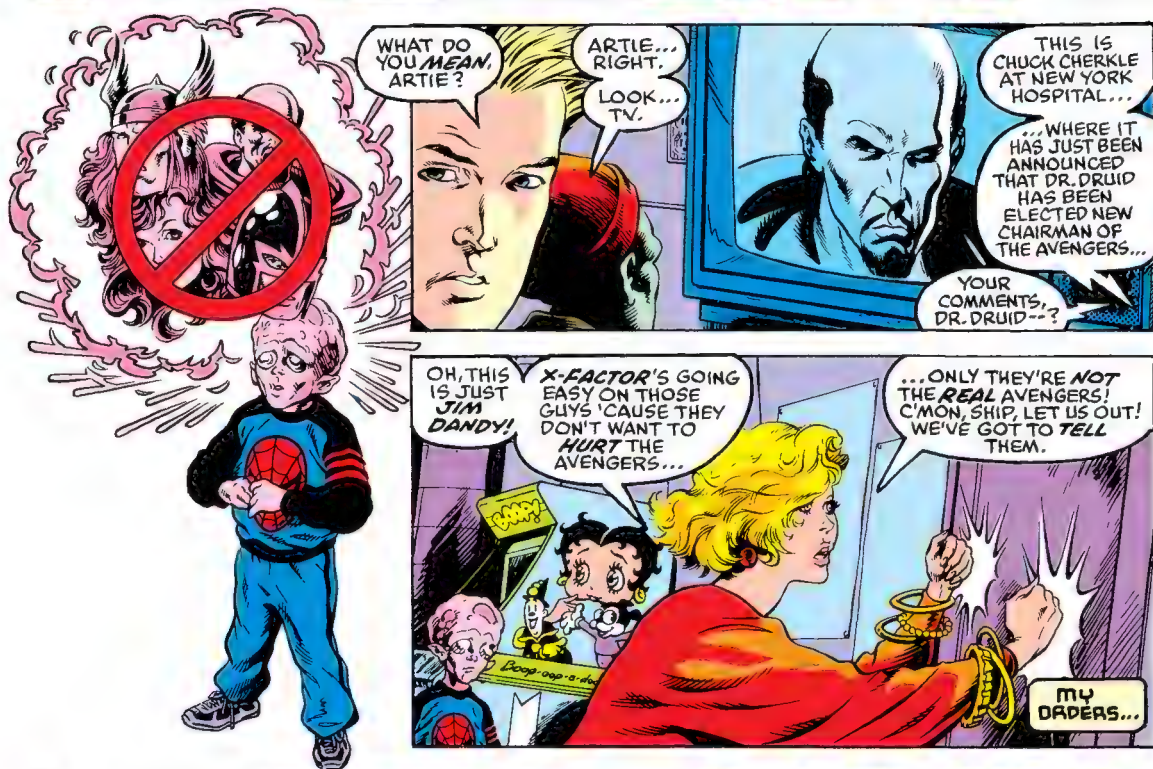
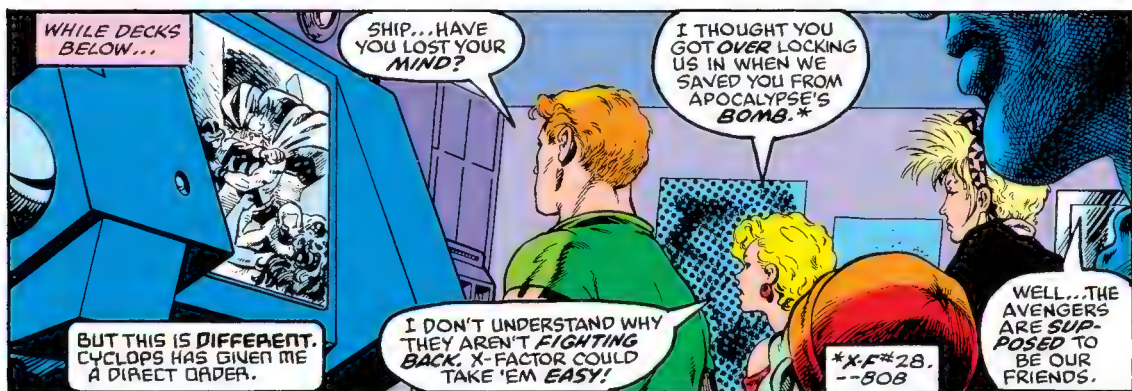


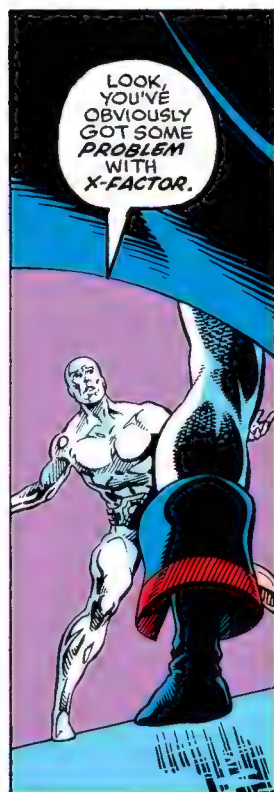


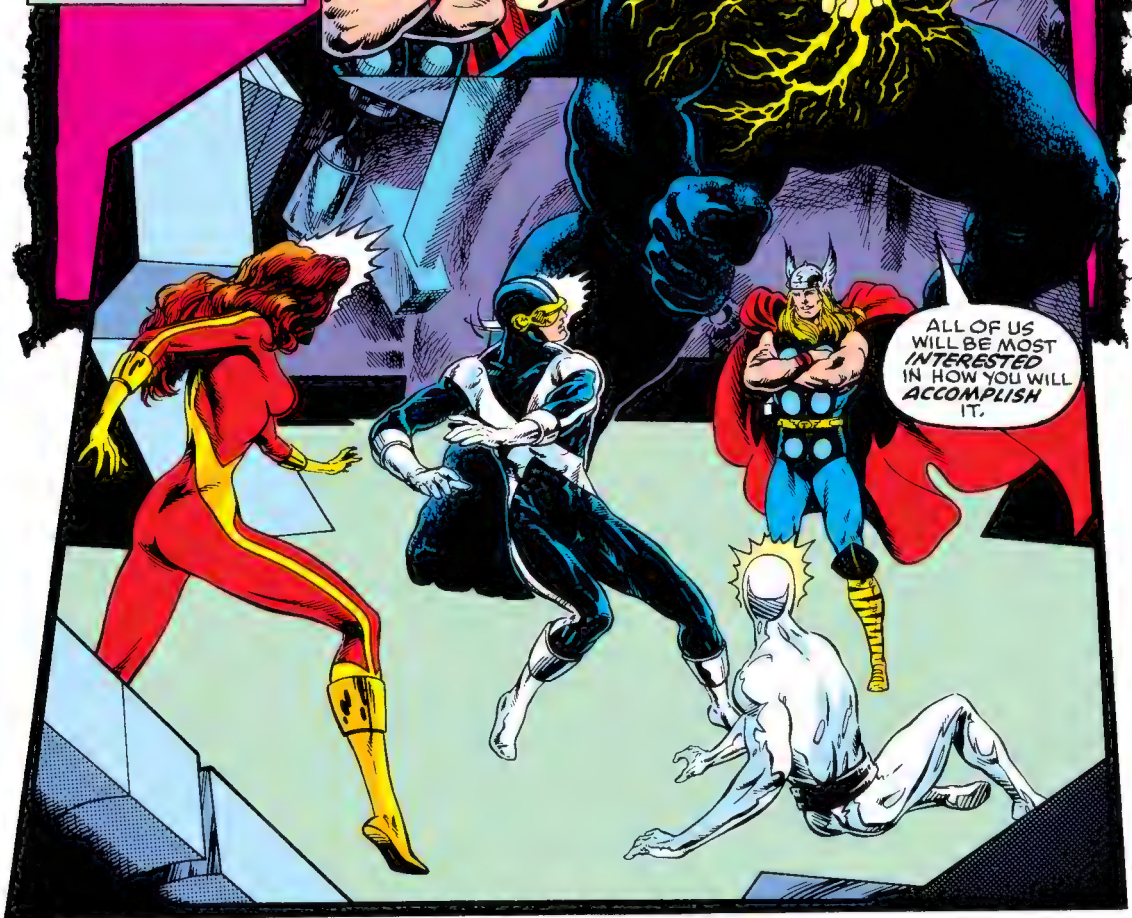
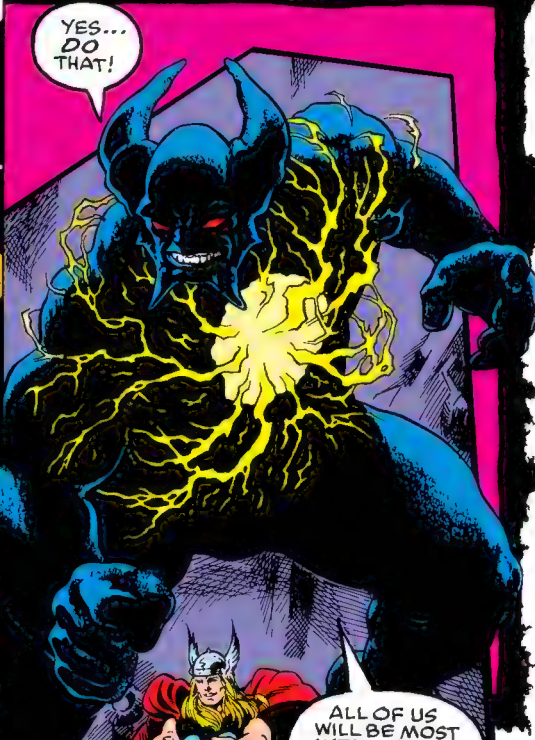
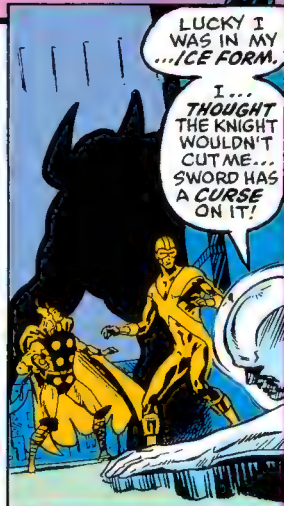
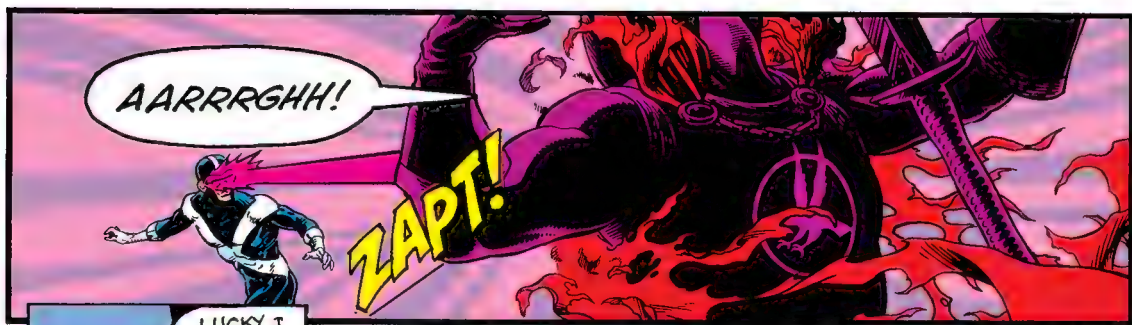
WE WANT YOUR
DEATHS!

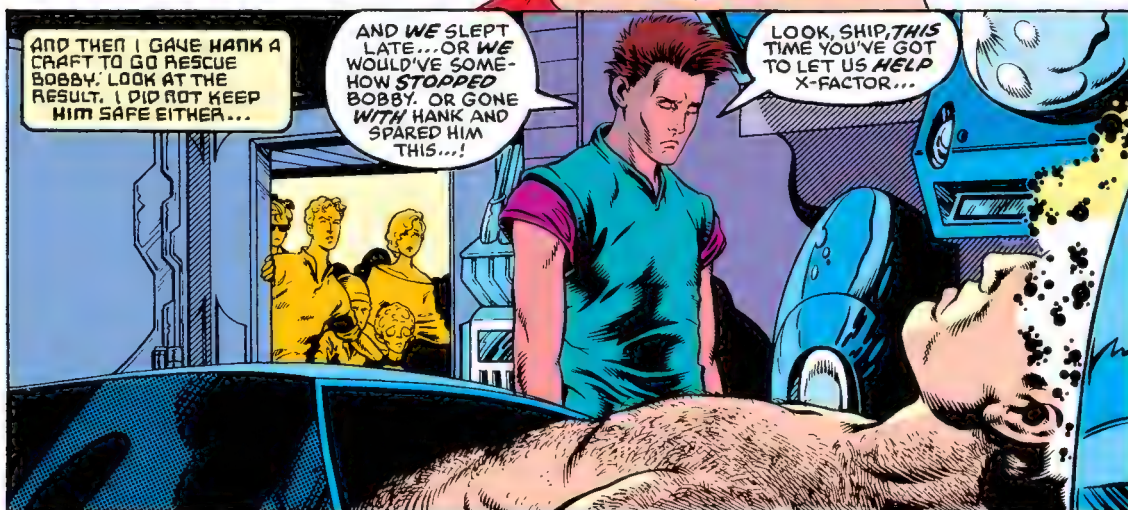
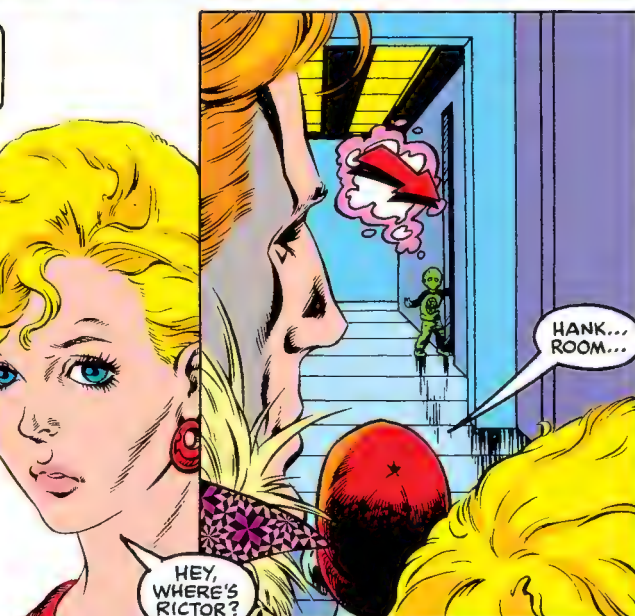
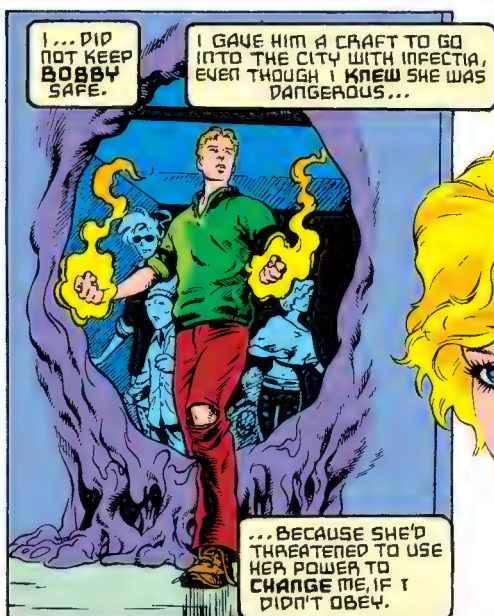
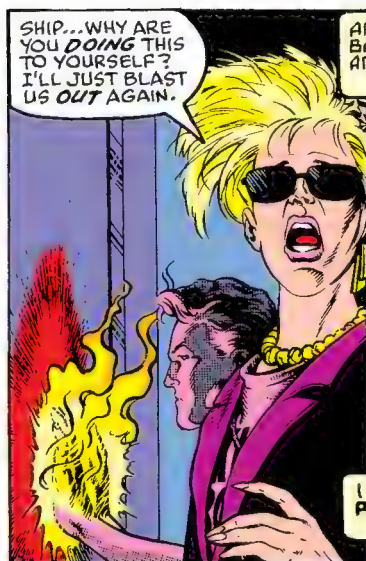
CRASH!











"...OR SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD HAPPEN TO THEM *ALL*!"



I HAVE STUDIED YOU! I *KNOW* YOUR *POWERS*! THEY WILL NOT AFFECT ME!

CYCLOPS... DIZZY... CAN'T THINK...

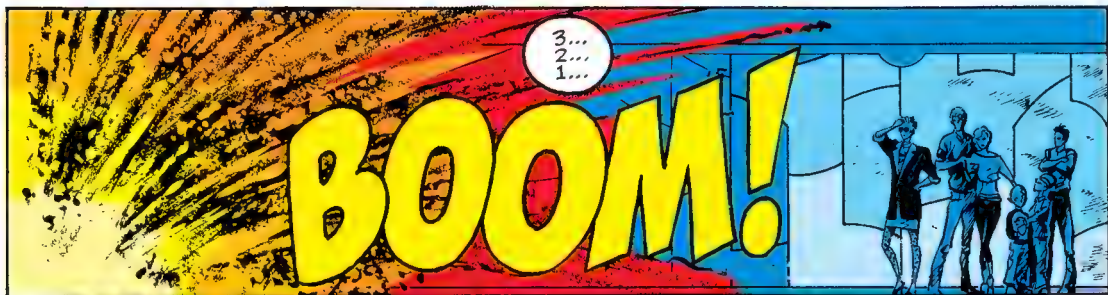
NOR WILL YOUR TELEKINETIC POWERS AFFECT ME! FOR I HAVE *BECOME* AN *IRONION JUGGERNAUT*!

YOU EVADE MY BLOW *THIS* TIME, CYCLOPS. SOON YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO.

THE FREQUENCY I EMIT WILL CLOUD YOUR MINDS.

YOU WILL BE INCREASINGLY UNABLE TO RESIST US...

...WHEREAS I HAVE STRUCTURED MYSELF TO BE INVULNERABLE TO YOU *ALL*!



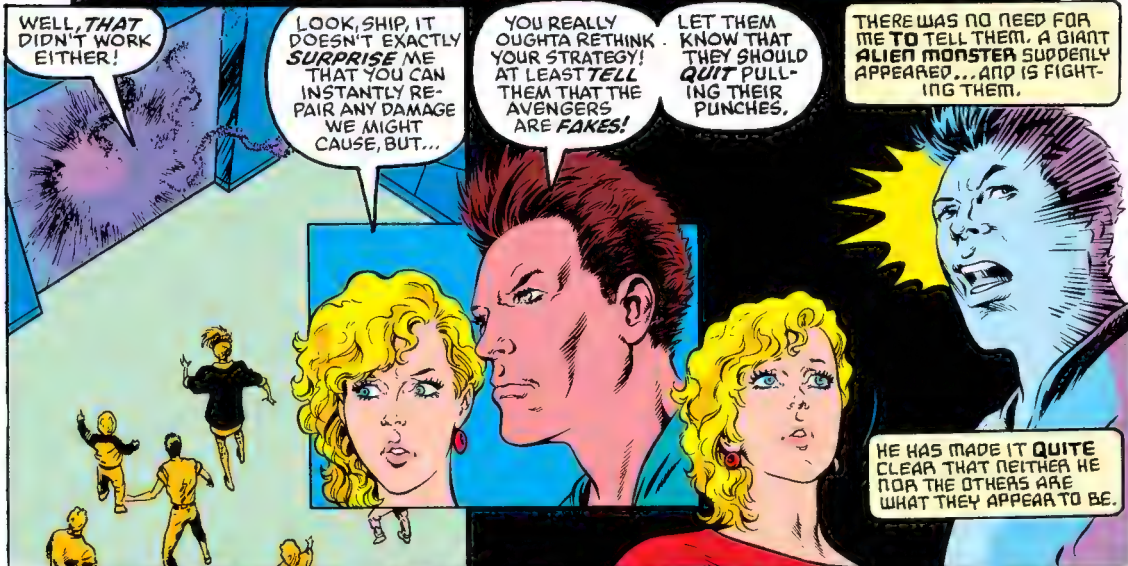
WELL, *THAT* DIDN'T WORK EITHER!

LOOK, SHIP, IT DOESN'T EXACTLY *SURPRISE* ME THAT YOU CAN INSTANTLY REPAIR ANY DAMAGE WE MIGHT CAUSE, BUT...

YOU REALLY OUGHTA RETHINK YOUR STRATEGY! AT LEAST *TELL* THEM THAT THE AVENGERS ARE *FAKES*!

LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY SHOULD *QUIT* PULLING THEIR PUNCHES.

THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ME TO TELL THEM. A GIANT ALIEN MONSTER SUDDENLY APPEARED... AND IS FIGHTING THEM.



AWRIGHT! THEN THAT'S *SOMETHING*! THEY OUGHTA BE MOPPING UP THE *FLOOR* WITH THOSE GUYS.

I FEAR NOT. THE MONSTER HAS OBSERVED THEM AND DESIGNED HIMSELF TO BE IMPERVIOUS TO THEIR POWERS.

SO NOW... *LOOK!* MORE THAN *EVER* YOU'VE GOT TO LET US OUT OF HERE!

DON'T YOU *SEE*--? IT DESIGNED ITSELF TO COUNTER *THEIR* POWERS. NOT *OURS*!

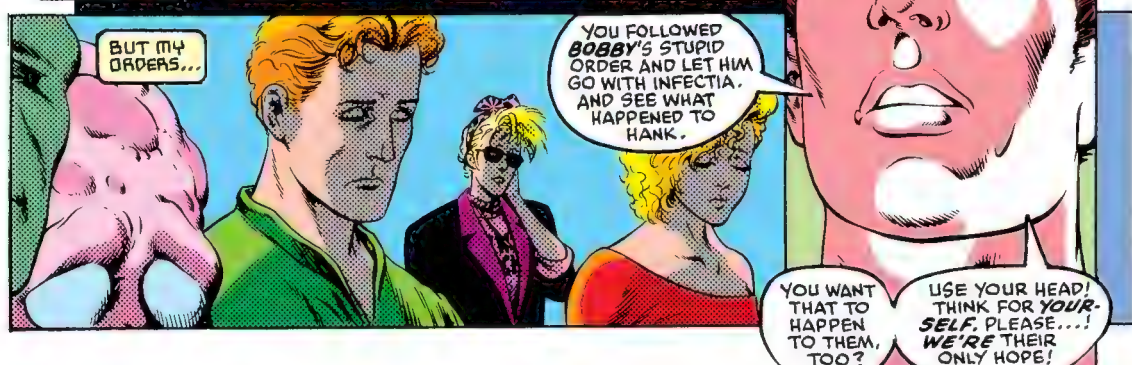


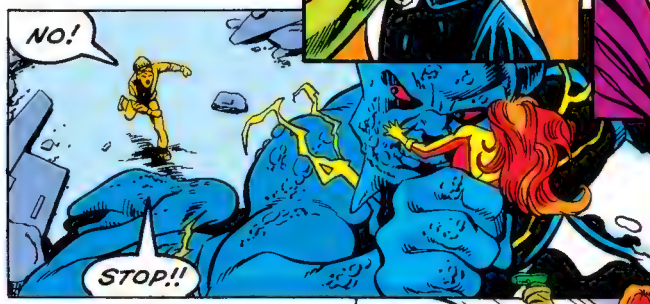
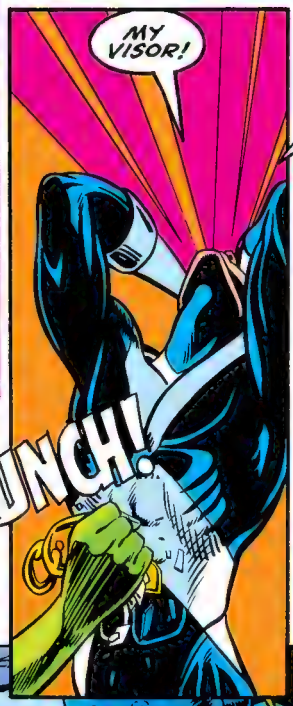
BUT MY ORDERS...

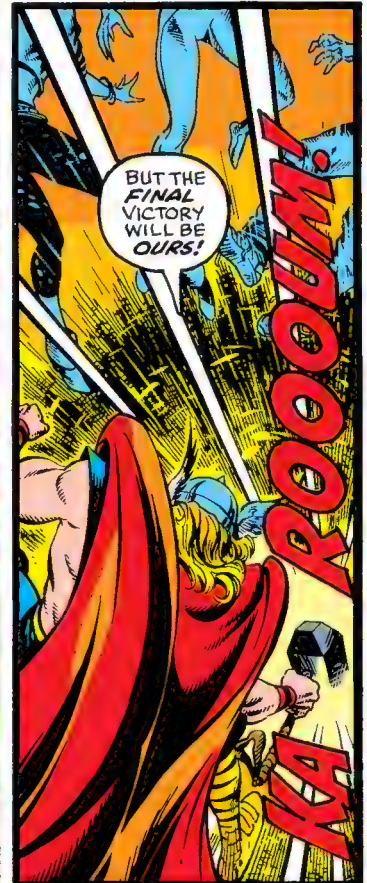
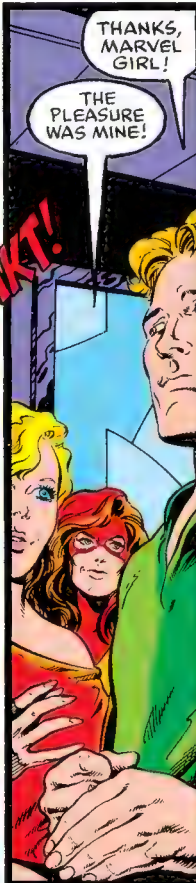
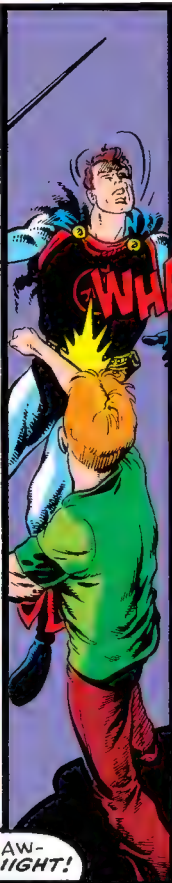
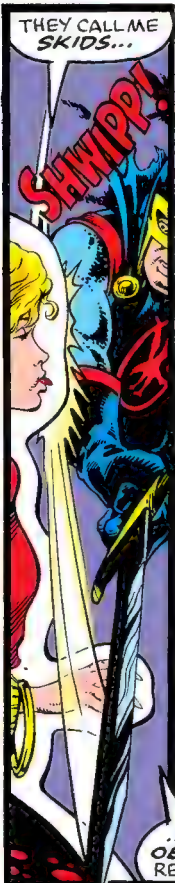
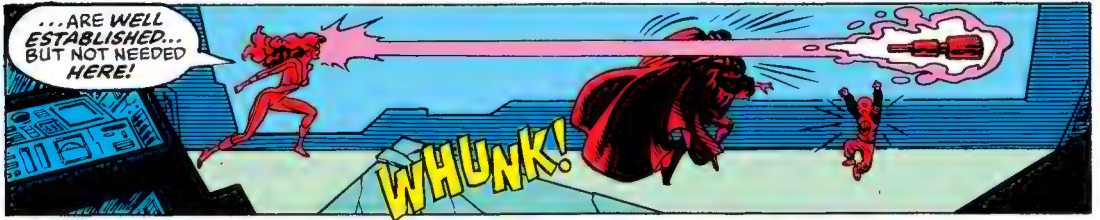
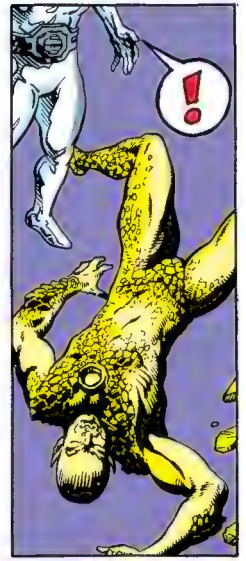
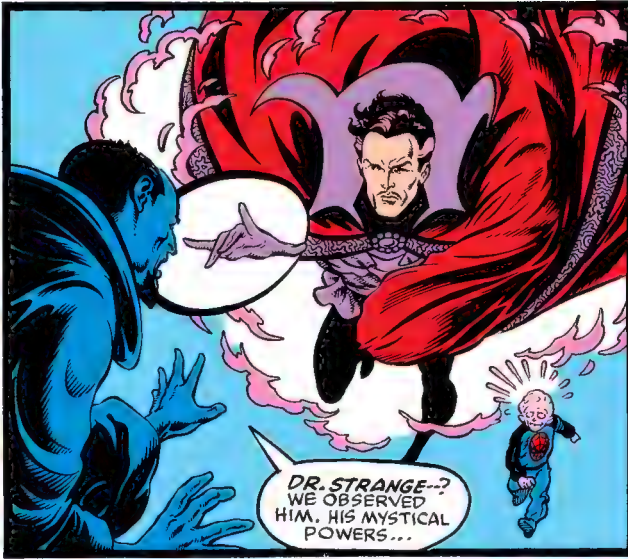
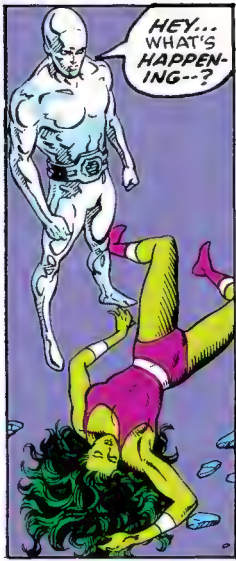
YOU FOLLOWED *BOBBY'S* STUPID ORDER AND LET HIM GO WITH INFECTIA. AND SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO HANK.

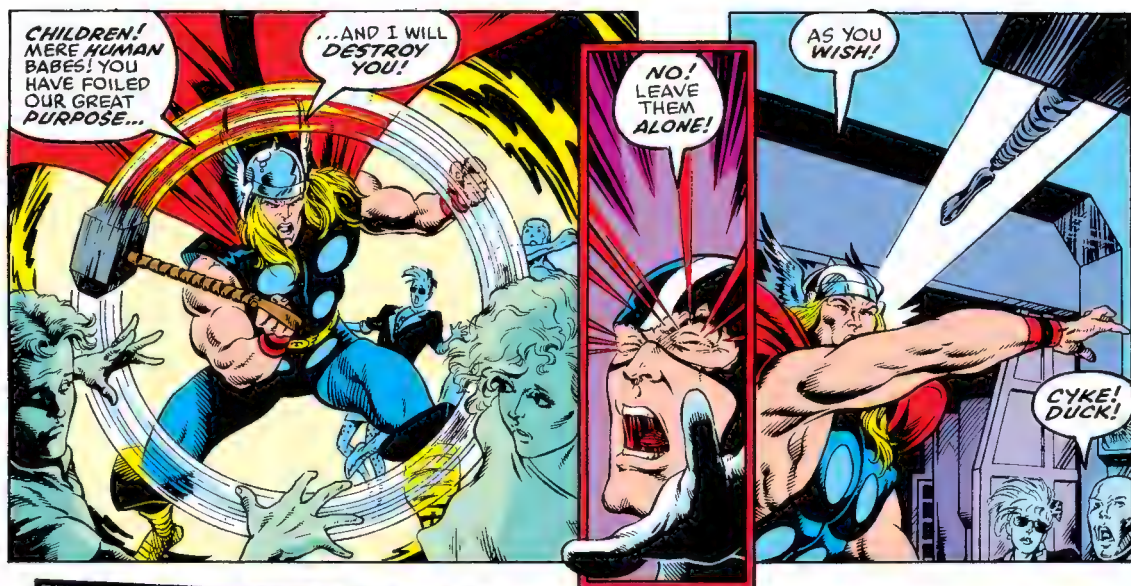
YOU WANT THAT TO HAPPEN TO THEM, TOO?

USE YOUR HEAD! THINK FOR *YOURSELF*. PLEASE...! WE'RE THEIR ONLY HOPE!









THERE ARE MANY REALITIES.

HERE, IN THE SUB-BASEMENT OF AN IMMENSE SKYSCRAPER... A MAINSTAY OF CHICAGO'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY...

...CONFLICTING REALITIES MEET... AND MAKE THEIR ACCOMMODATIONS...

IT IS... MOST UNUSUAL... FOR US IN LIMBO TO RECEIVE A CALL FROM YOUR DIMENSION...

MY... ORGANIZATION HAS ACCESS TO CERTAIN... **ARCANE** RITUALS, BASED ON THE NOTES... OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY MYSTIC **BELASCO**.

BUT I AM RELUCTANT TO LEAVE MY STUDIES, HERE, AT THIS TIME. IF YOU COULD SAVE ME THIS ONEROUS JOURNEY--?

I KNOW THE LOCATION OF **MANY** MUTANT CHILDREN, INCLUDING AN ORPHAN-AGE THAT SPECIALIZES IN THEM.

UNTIL RECENTLY, MY ORGANIZATION HAS ALLOWED THEM TO EXIST, SINCE THESE... CREATURES MIGHT EVENTUALLY PROVE **USEFUL** TO US.

BUT A RECENT CONFRONTATION HAS CONVINCED ME THAT **NO** MUTANT MUST BE ALLOWED TO LIVE.

THOSE CHILDREN ARE **MAGGOTS**, THRIVING ON HUMANITY'S CORRUPTION. I HAVE ORDERED MY TROOPS TO **CRUSH** THEM.

BUT IF **THEY** WOULD BE OF USE--?

AH... THAT WOULD EXPLAIN IT. AND WHY I RECEIVED THE CALL. WHY HAVE YOU **CONTACTED** ME?

YOU ARE A DEMON. I HAVE ENEMIES... AND A NEED FOR **POWER**. I OFFER YOU MY SOUL IN **RETURN**.

WE HAVE YOUR SOUL. WHAT ELSE DO YOU OFFER--?

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO **BUY**--?

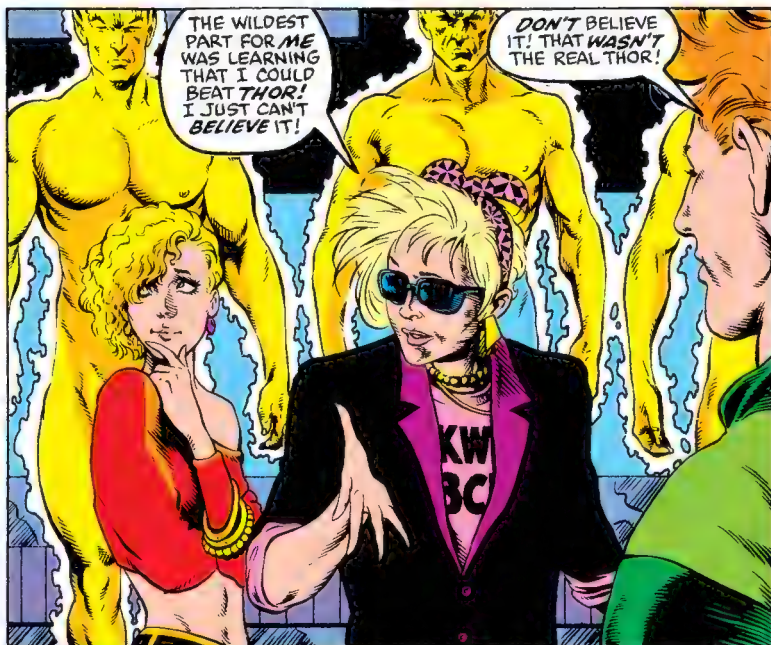
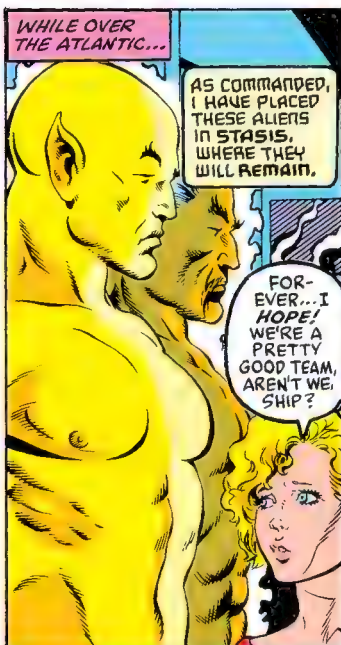
THE ONE I SERVE HAS ORDERED ME TO ACQUIRE CERTAIN **INFANTS** FROM YOUR WORLD...

...BABES OF **POWER** AND **PURITY** TO BE SACRIFICED IN AN **ARCANE** RITE.



A BARGAIN! TELL ME WHERE TO **FIND** THESE INFANTS...

...AND I-- **N'ASTIRH**-- WILL PROTECT YOU FROM TOTAL DESTRUCTION AT YOUR GREAT **ENEMY**'S HAND!





MARVEL[®]

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN[®]



TM

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LEONARDI + PCB

Welcome to GENOSHA

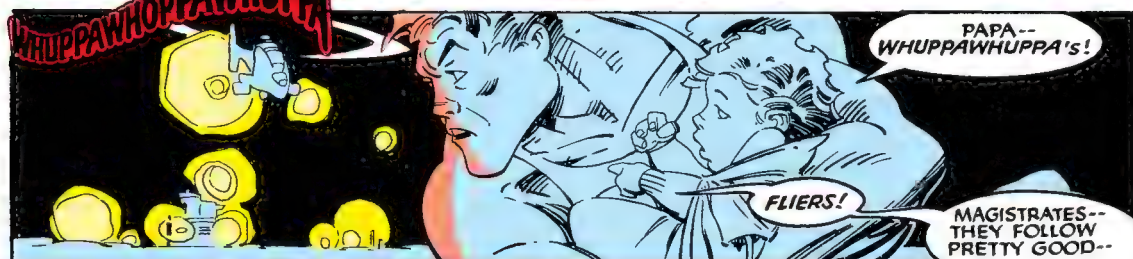
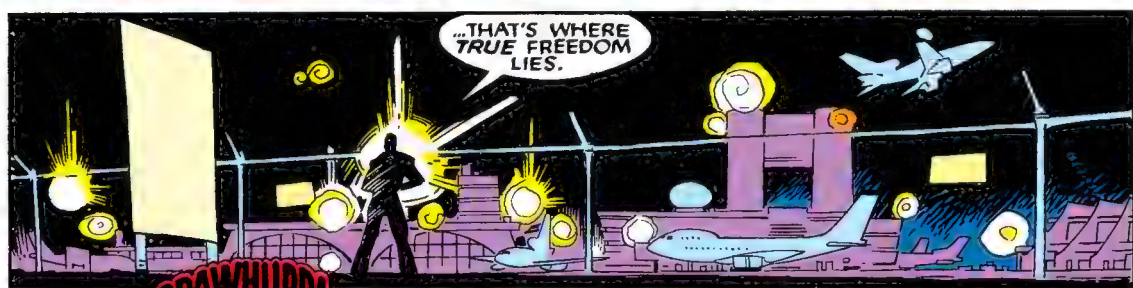
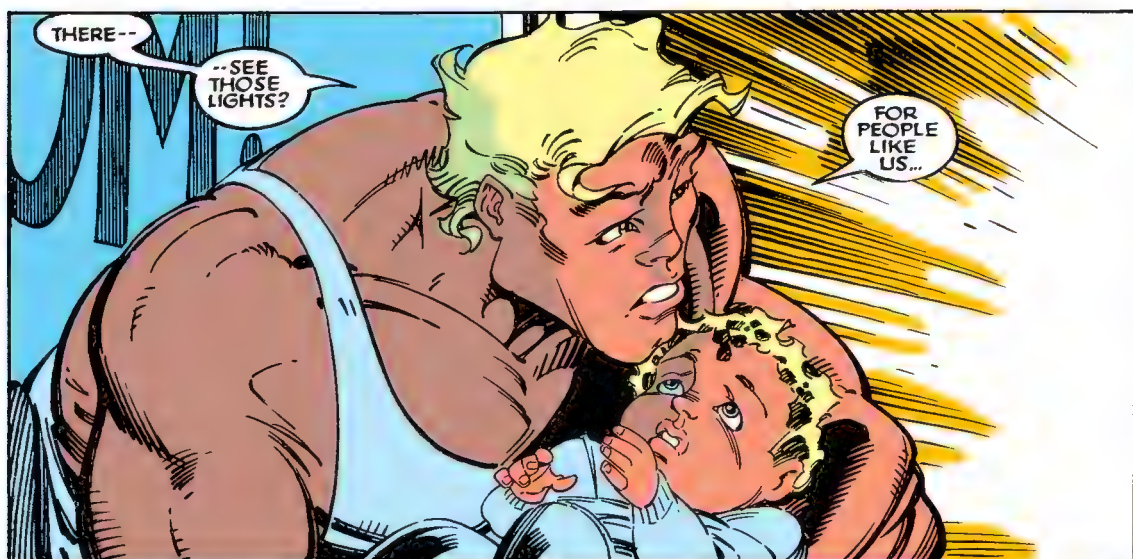
...A GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND...

HOPE ^{of} OPPORTUNITY
where the WATCHWORD is

FREEDOM!

NOT
FAR
LEFT
TO GO

CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
RICK LEONARDI, PENCILER
P. CRAIG RUSSELL, INKER
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST
TOM ORZECZOWSKI, LETTERER
BOB HARRAS, EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF





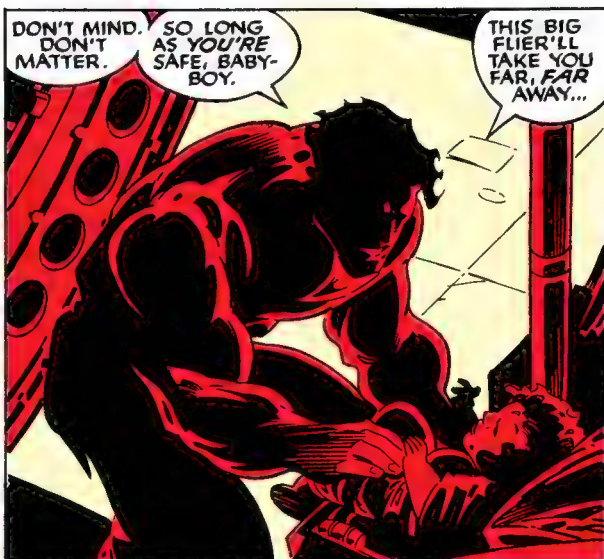
FOOLED 'EM--
ha-hah--

-- BUT
NOT FOR
LONG--

--US PEOPLE
WE'RE NOT
S'POSED TO
BE IN THIS
FLYAWAY
PLACE--

--SOON
AS I'M
SPOTTED...

...MAGISTRATES'LL
BE AFTER ME AGAIN.



DON'T MIND.
DON'T
MATTER.

SO LONG
AS YOU'RE
SAFE, BABY-
BOY.

THIS BIG
FLIER'LL
TAKE YOU
FAR, FAR
AWAY...



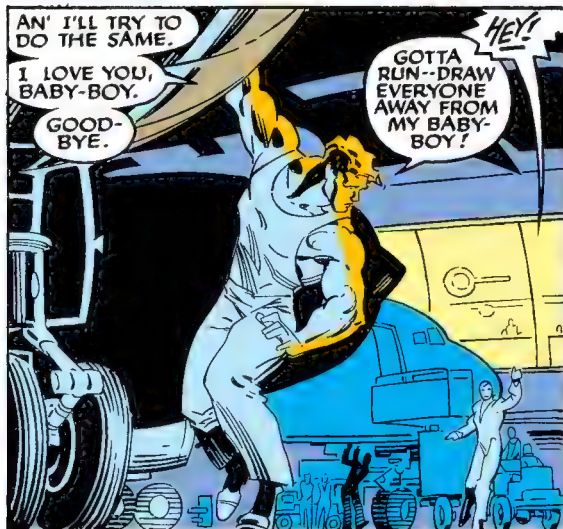
...TO A PLACE
WHERE OUR
KIND LIVE
FREE...

...WHERE
YOU'LL BE
HAPPY.

I'LL MISS
YOU, BABY-
BOY.

WISH I
COULD
GO, TOO.

YOU BE
BRAVE.

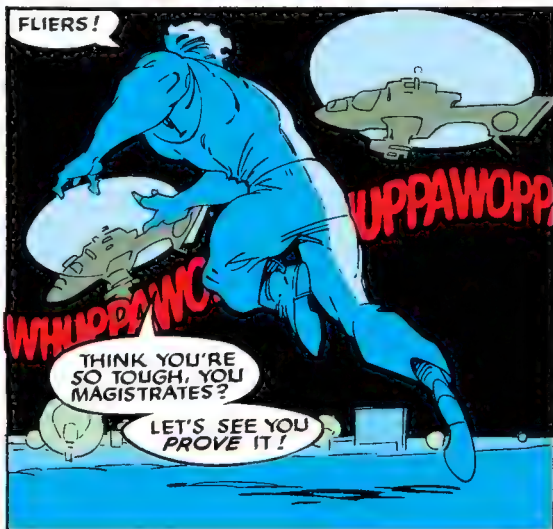


AN' I'LL TRY TO
DO THE SAME.

I LOVE YOU,
BABY-BOY.

GOOD-
BYE.

HEY!
GOTTA
RUN--DRAW
EVERYONE
AWAY FROM
MY BABY-
BOY!

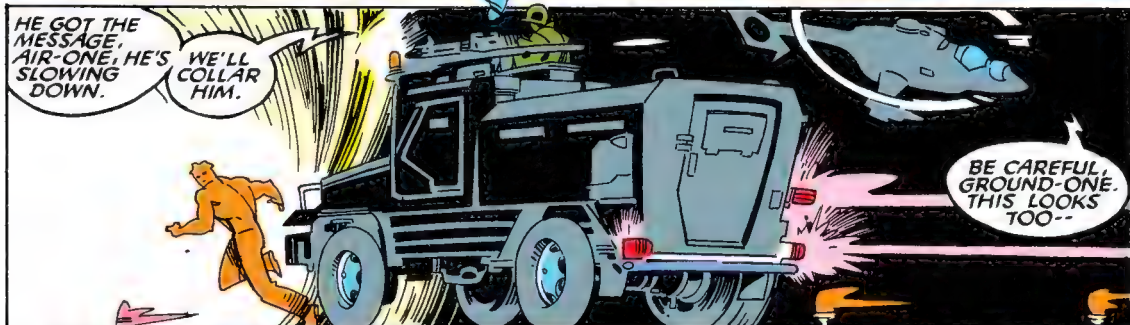
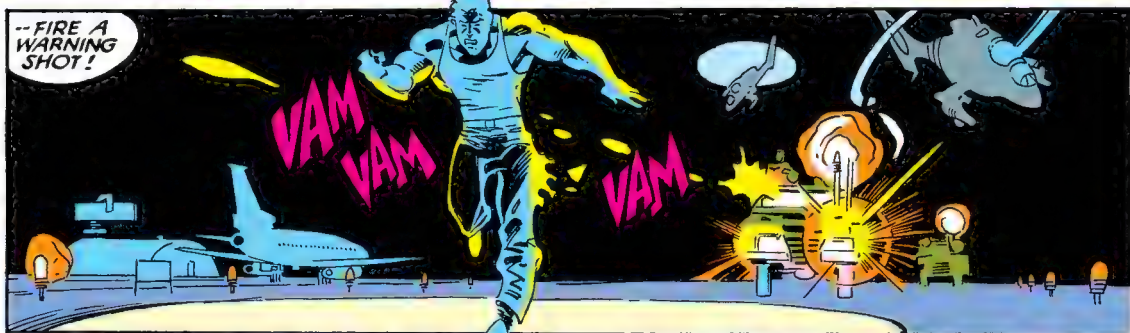
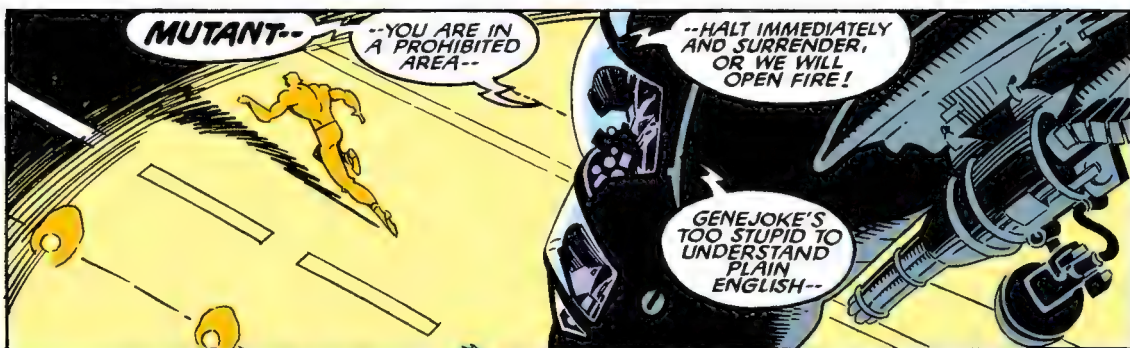


FLIERS!

WHIPPANC
UPPAWOPPA

THINK YOU'RE
SO TOUGH, YOU
MAGISTRATES?

LET'S SEE YOU
PROVE IT!



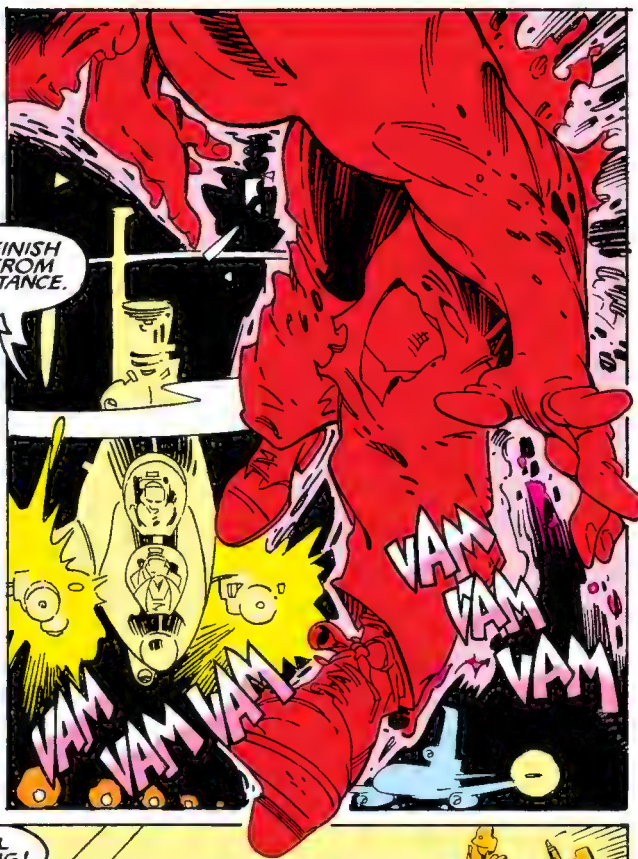


GROUND AND AIR,
RING HIM-- MAKE
SURE THE GENEJOKE
CAN'T ESCAPE.

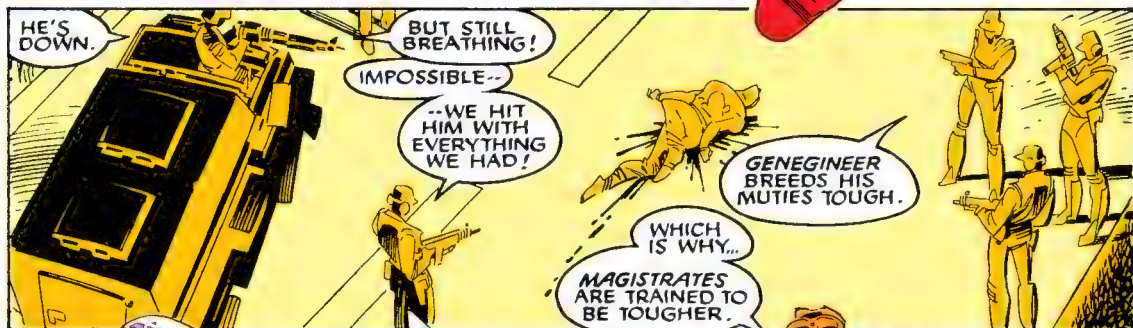
STAY
CLEAR
OF HIM.

WE'LL
USE OUR
WEAPONS...

...TO FINISH
THIS FROM
A DISTANCE.



VAM
VAM
VAM
VAM



HE'S
DOWN.

BUT STILL
BREATHING!

IMPOSSIBLE--

--WE HIT
HIM WITH
EVERYTHING
WE HAD!

GENEENGINEER
BREEDS HIS
MUTIES TOUGH.

WHICH
IS WHY...

MAGISTRATES
ARE TRAINED TO
BE TOUGHER.



BABY...

...BABY-
BOY...

NOTIFY
SECURITY-
CENTRAL, MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED.

ESCAPE
ATTEMPT
TERMINATED.

...BOTH
OF US...

...AT
LAST,
WE'RE...

...FREE

Times of Australia
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1988
PAGE 17

STOWAWAY BABY FOUND IN JET

author: y. Air
Infor- R.
mystery, Genod
pilot re dist
Marino wine pool
Cairn
Ch

TWO DAYS LATER...

... HALF A WORLD TOWARDS THE SUNRISE...

ORDERS ARE, WHEN THIS JOB'S DONE, WE'RE TO COLLECT THIS GENE-JOKE BABY AND RETURN IT HOME AS WELL.

FUNNY, Y'KNOW-- I THOUGHT MUTIES WEREN'T ALLOWED TO BREED.

ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN, PIPELINE.

MUTIE HAS A KID, OR A GOVERNMENT MINISTER HAS A MUTIE KID, IT'S ALL THE SAME.

I SUPPOSE.

Y'KNOW, HAWKSHAW-- THIS JENNIFER RANSOME DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANY MUTIE.

THEY DON'T ALL HAVE HORNS AN' TAILS, DOOFUS.

I READ HER DOSSIER, Y'KNOW. SHE'S A NICE KID. SHAME THIS HAS TO HAPPEN.

GIMME A BREAK!

SHE'S ONLY HERSELF TO BLAME.

SHE KNEW THE LAW.

SHE KNEW HER DUTY.

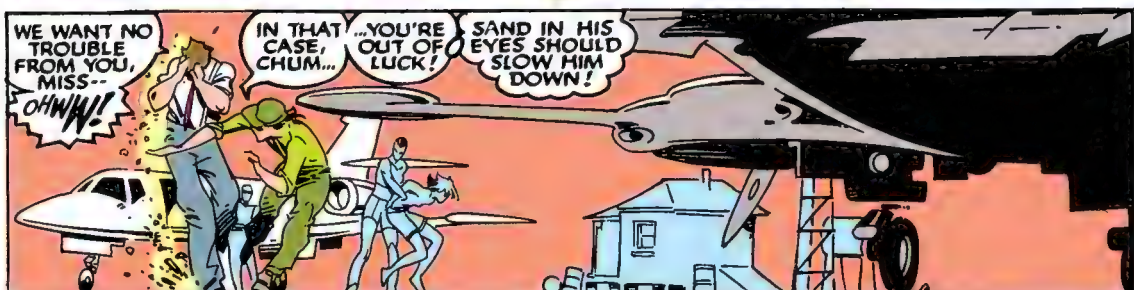
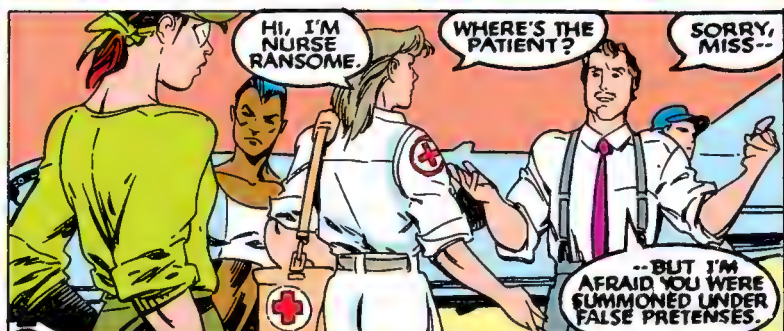
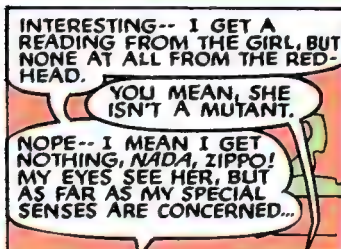
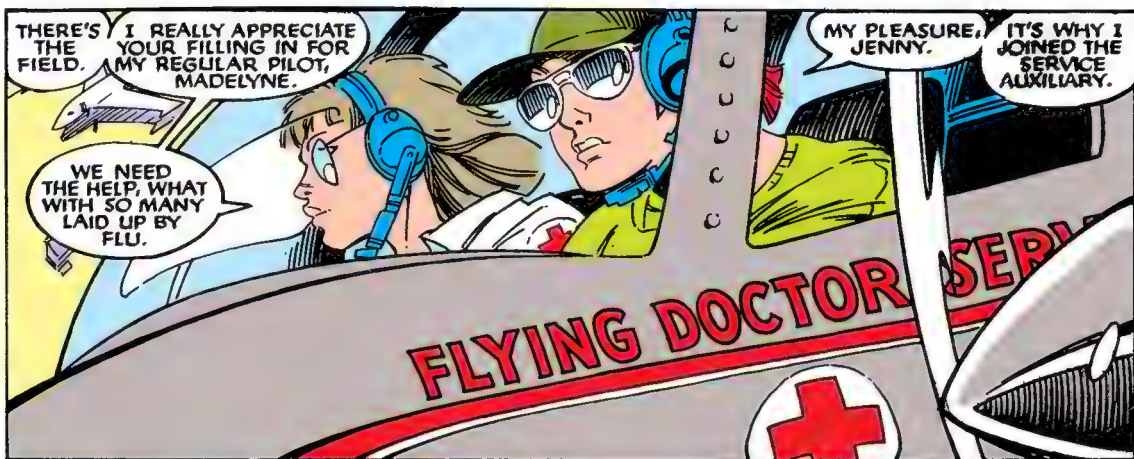
BUT SHE TRIED TO HIDE HER TEST RESULTS, THEN SHE FLED THE COUNTRY.

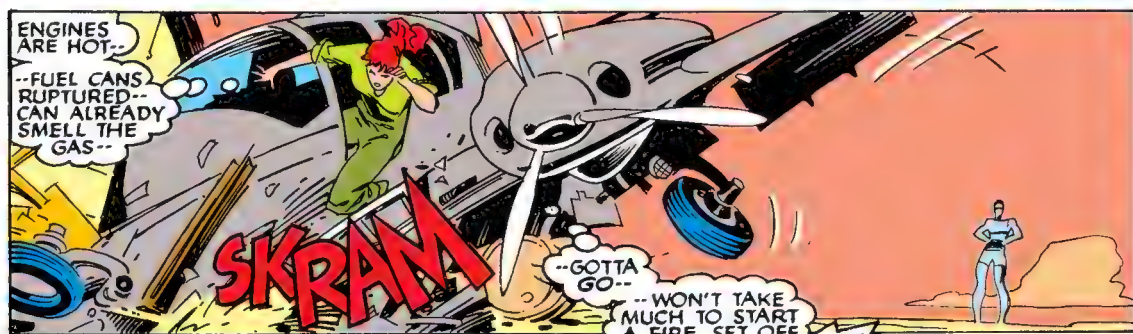
HOW'S THAT SUPPOSED TO SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE REST OF HER GENERATION, huh?!

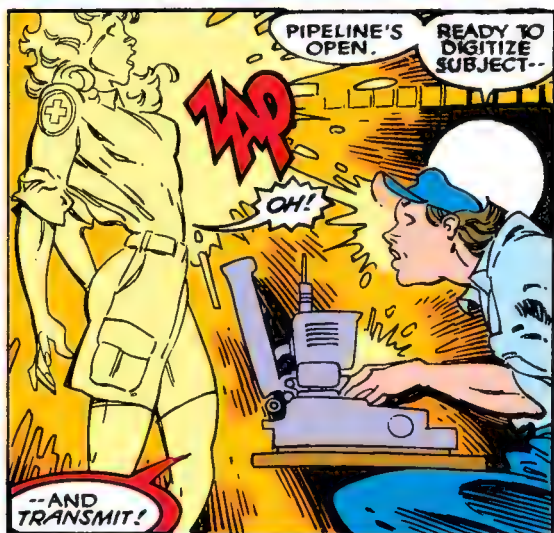
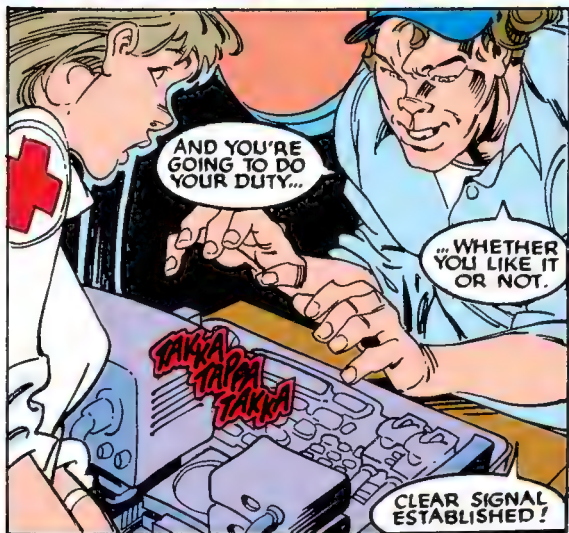
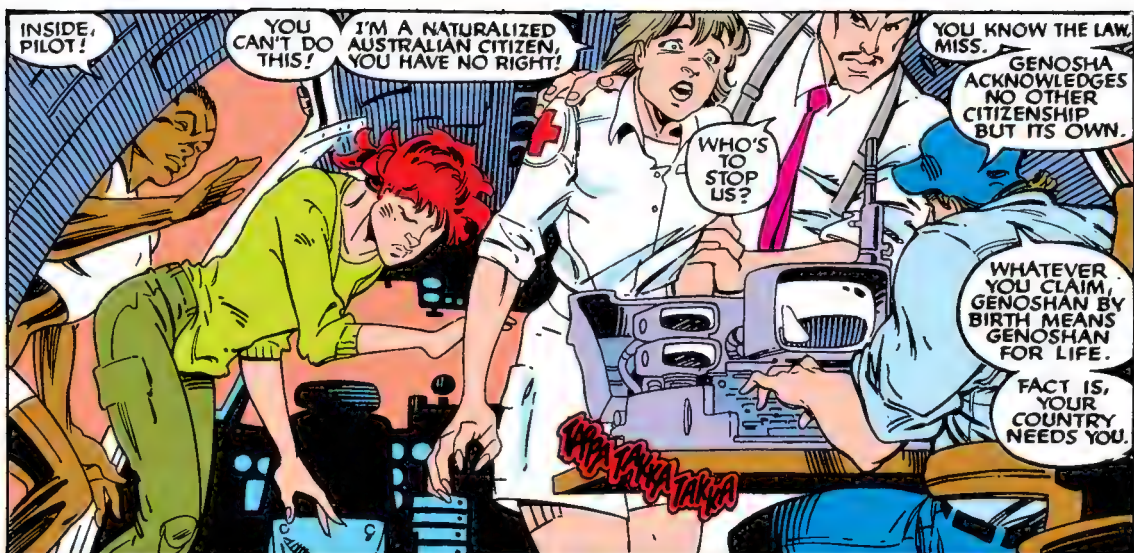
SHE HAS NO RIGHT TO SHIRK HER RESPONSIBILITIES-- ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF HER PRIVILEGED POSITION!

CAN THE CHATTER, PUNCHOUT.

THERE'S OUR PIGEON.







A LITTLE LATER...

NOT THE MOST SUBTLE ENTRANCE, AS A SONIC BOOM HERALDS ROGUE'S ARRIVAL.

IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, SHE CROSSES THE DISTANCE BETWEEN HORIZON AND AIRSTRIP.

SHE DOESN'T LIKE WHAT SHE FINDS.

PSYLOCKE, YOU "HEAR" WHAT AH'M THINKIN'?

AS WELL AS I CAN, GIVEN YOUR NATURAL RESISTANCE TO MY TELEPATHIC POWERS.

AH FOUND MADELYNE'S BEECHCRAFT.

HOPE Y'ALL CAN "SEE" ITS IMAGE IN MY MIND'S-EYE...

...AND GET A FIX ON MY POSITION.

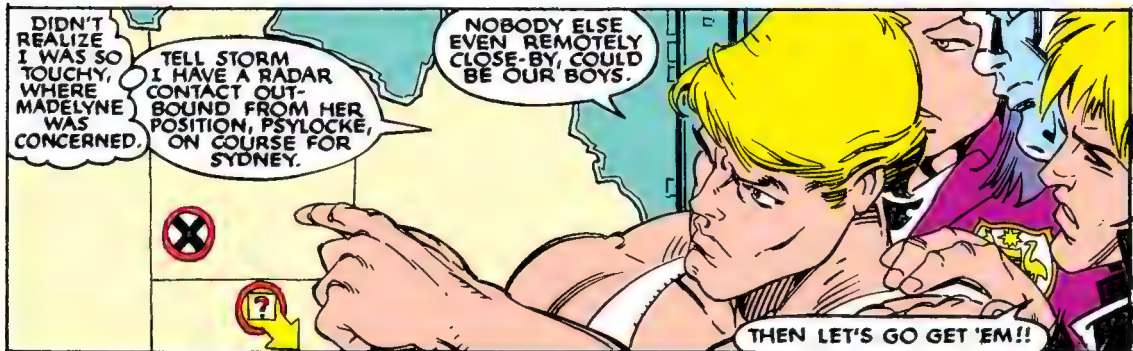
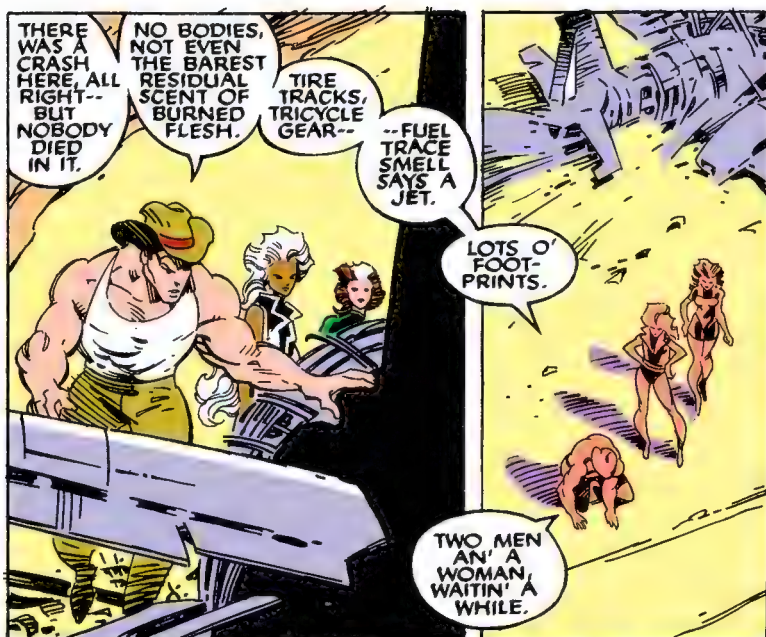
BOTH DONE.

GATEWAY IS TELEPORTING STORM AND WOLVERINE TO YOUR LOCATION.

SO AH NOTICE.

HANG LOOSE, SUGAR.

WE'LL LET Y'ALL KNOW, SOON AS WE LEARN SOMETHING.





SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, DUSK...

WE CAME AS SOON AS YOU CALLED, STORM.

BOY, THIS IS FUN!

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, LONGSHOT.

TELE-PORTING'S FOR 'STAR TREK,' NOT FOR ME.

I BROUGHT YOUR COSTUMES, GUYS.



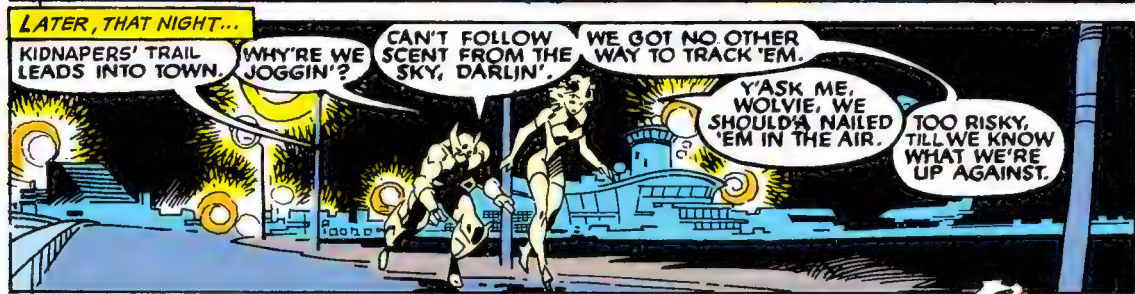
WEIRD-- MADELYNE'S AND JENNY'S SCENTS ARE OLD.

BUT THE OTHER THREE COMPARATIVELY FRESH.

AS THOUGH THEY ALL GOT ON THE PLANE TOGETHER, AN' THEN OUR TWO GALS VANISHED.

THAT SQUARES WITH PSYLOCKE'S INABILITY TO PSILINK WITH THEM, AND HAVOK'S TO PICK THEM UP ON HIS SCANNERS.

BUT, STORM, WHERE'D THEY GO?



LATER, THAT NIGHT...

KIDNAPERS' TRAIL LEADS INTO TOWN.

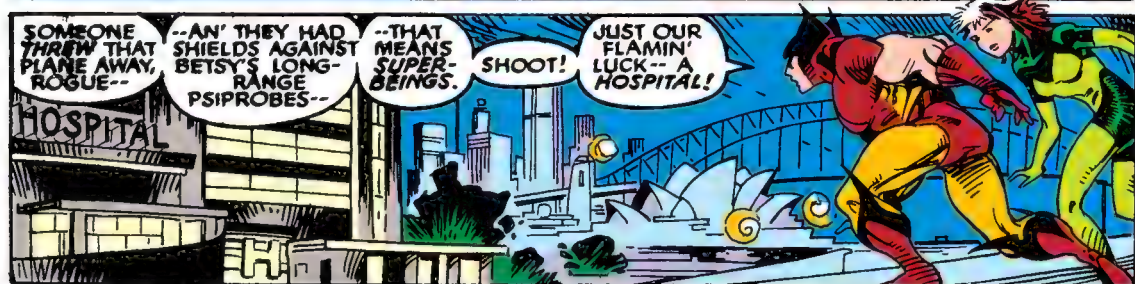
WHY'RE WE JOGGIN'?

CAN'T FOLLOW SCENT FROM THE SKY, DARLIN'.

WE GOT NO OTHER WAY TO TRACK 'EM.

Y'ASK ME, WOLVIE, WE SHOULD'A NAILED 'EM IN THE AIR.

TOO RISKY, TILL WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST.



SOMEONE THREW THAT PLANE AWAY, ROGUE--

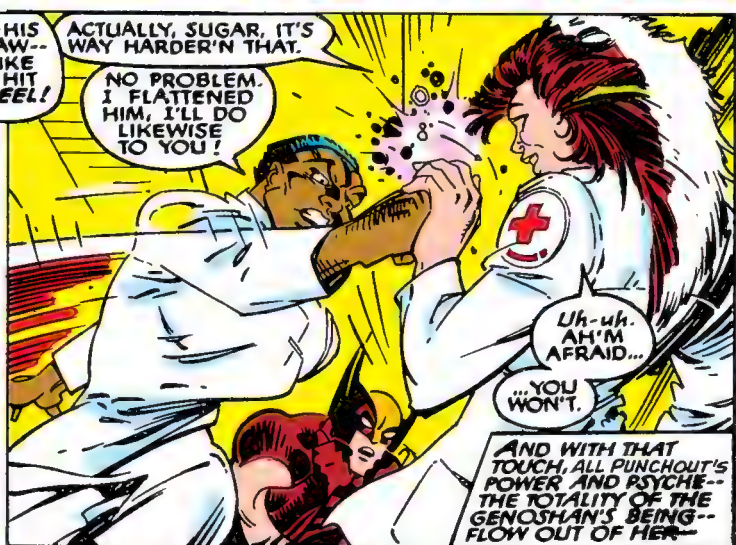
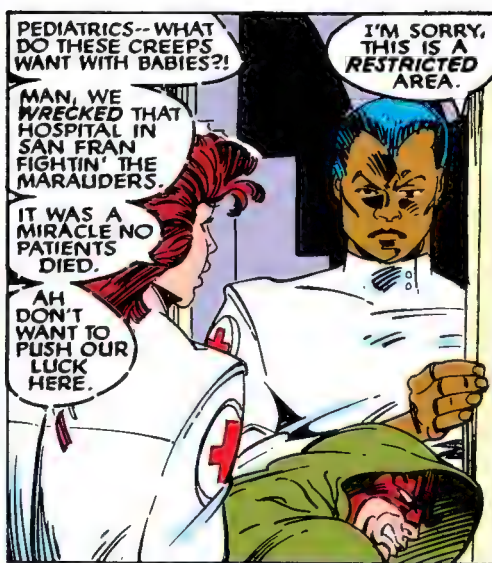
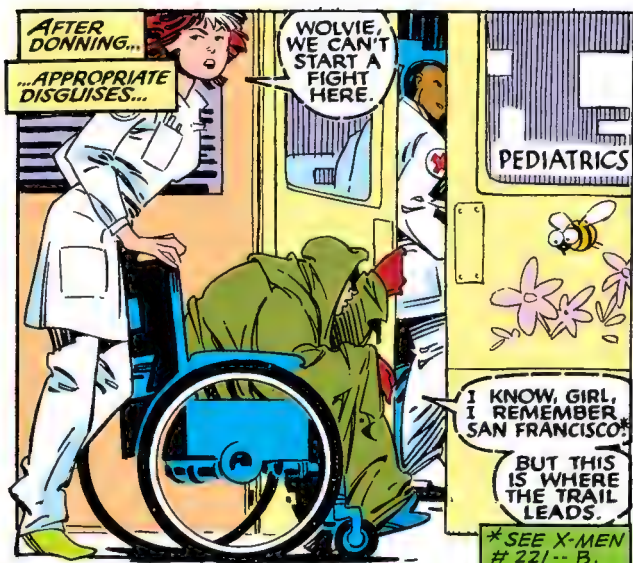
--AN' THEY HAD SHIELDS AGAINST BETSY'S LONG-RANGE PSIPROBES--

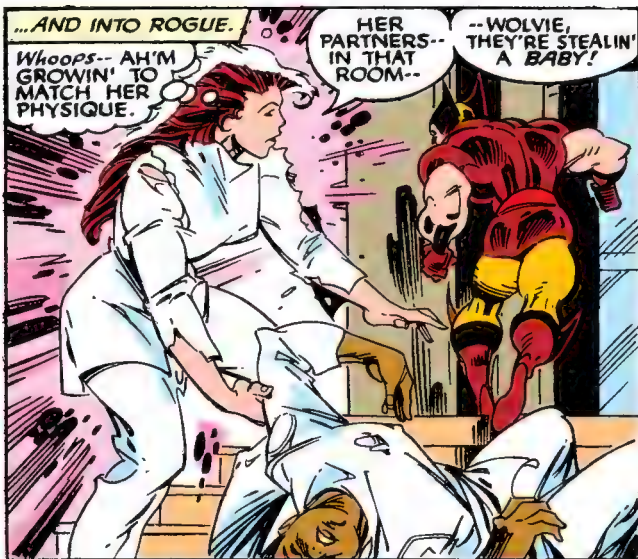
--THAT MEANS SUPER-BEINGS.

SHOOT!

JUST OUR FLAMIN' LUCK-- A HOSPITAL!

HOSPITAL





...AND INTO ROGUE.

Whoops-- AH'M GROWIN' TO MATCH HER PHYSIQUE.

HER PARTNERS-- IN THAT ROOM--

--WOLVIE, THEY'RE STEALIN' A BABY!



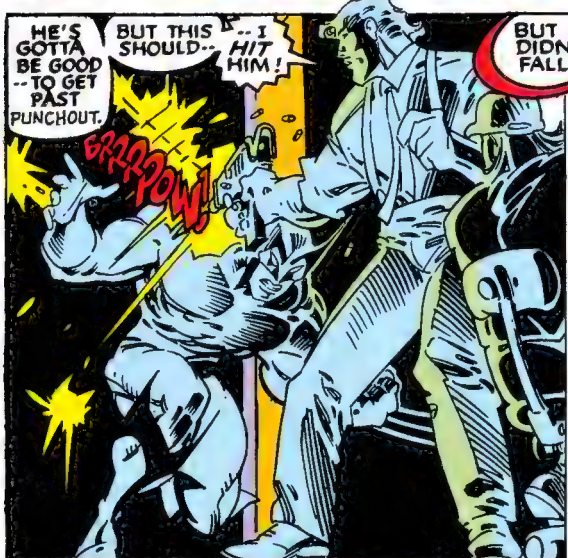
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!

WE HAVE A PROBLEM, PIPELINE.

ALREADY ON IT, HAWK.

SWITCHING TO MAINFRAME STORAGE.

BEEP!

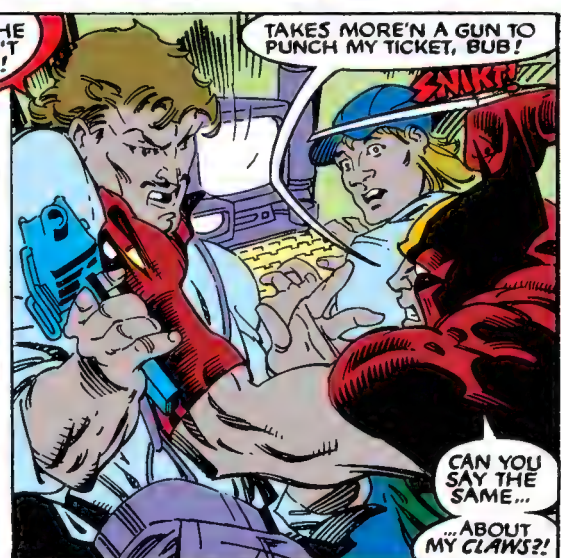


HE'S GOTTA BE GOOD --TO GET PAST PUNCHOUT.

BUT THIS SHOULD--

--I HIT HIM!

BUT HE DIDN'T FALL!



TAKES MORE'N A GUN TO PUNCH MY TICKET, BUB!

CAN YOU SAY THE SAME...
...ABOUT MY CLAWS?!

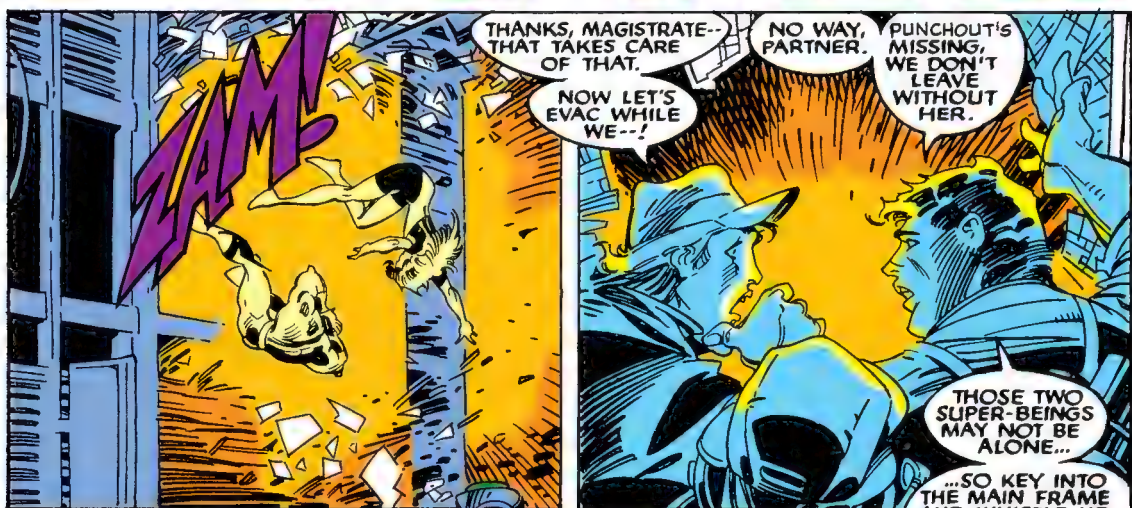
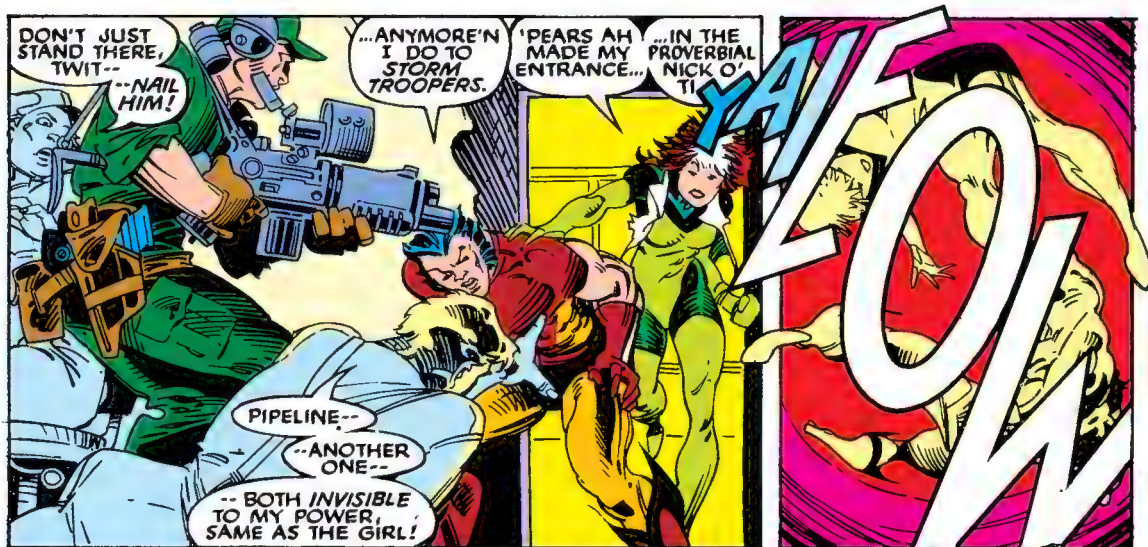


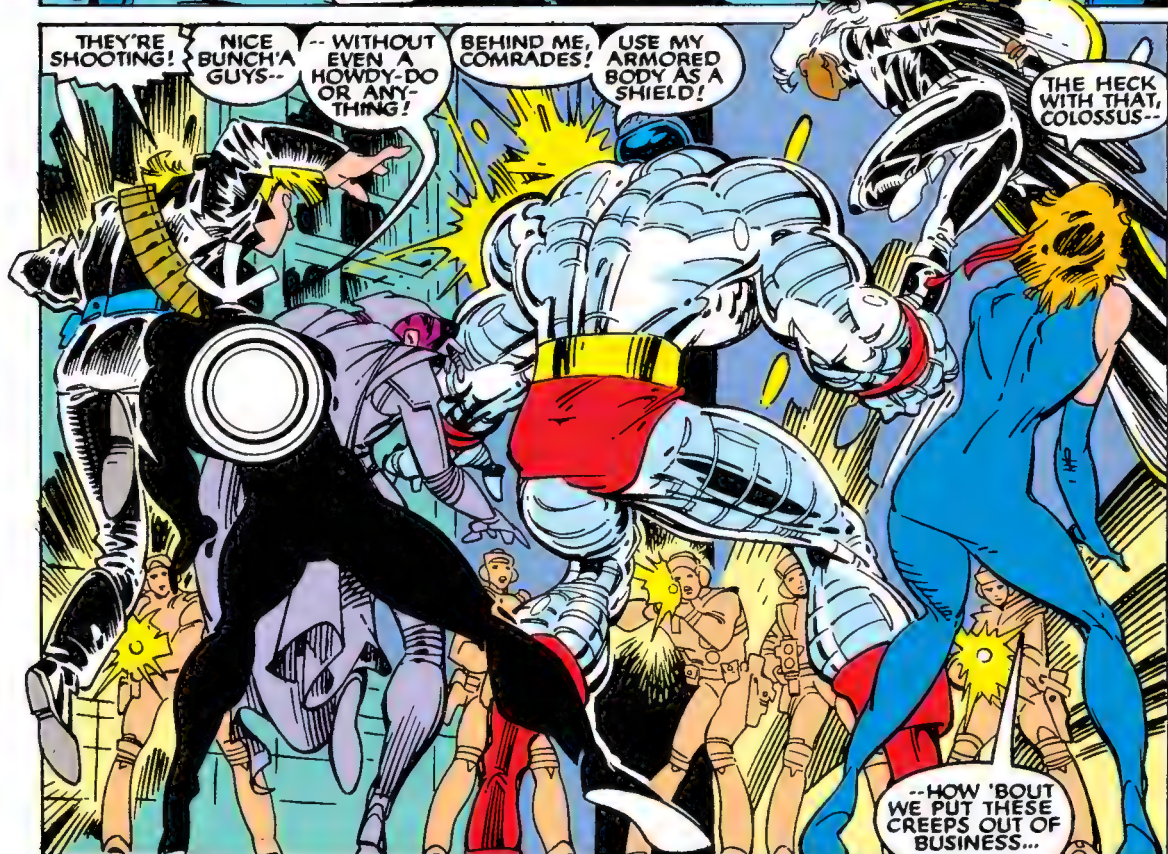
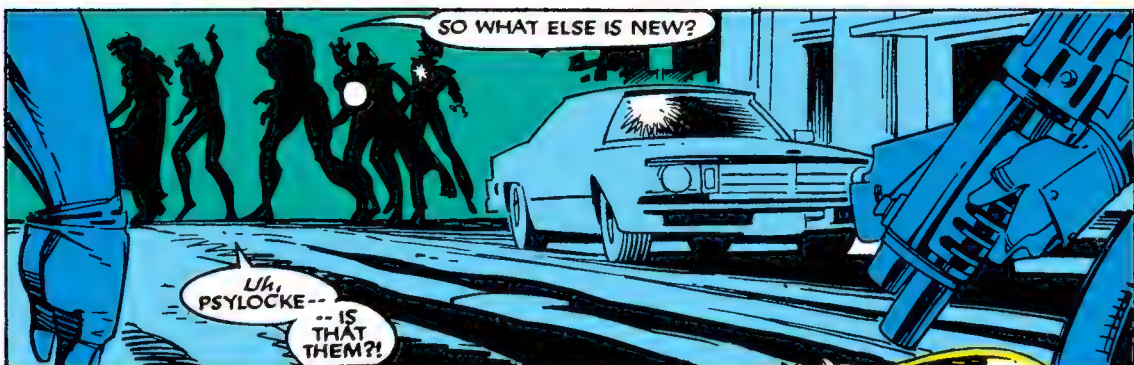
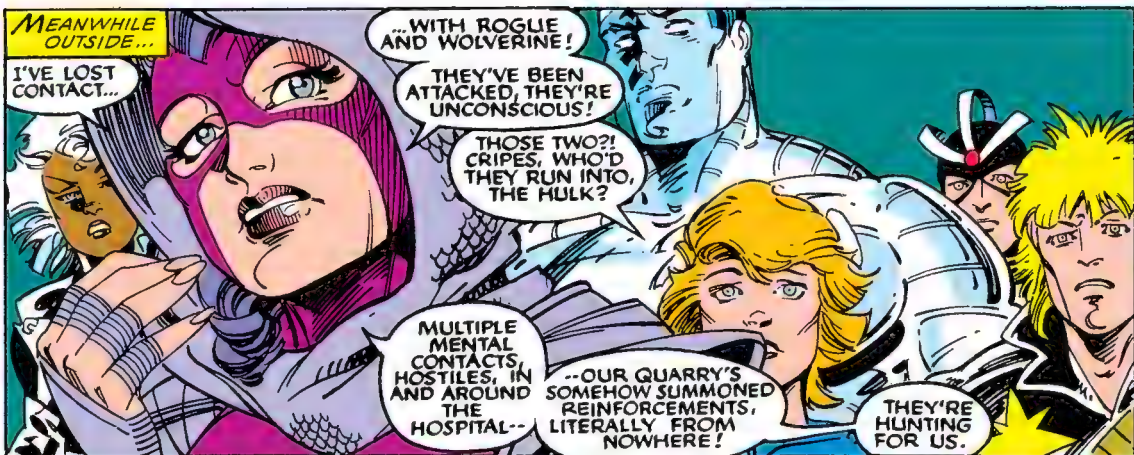
RELEASE HIM, GENEJOKE--
--OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!

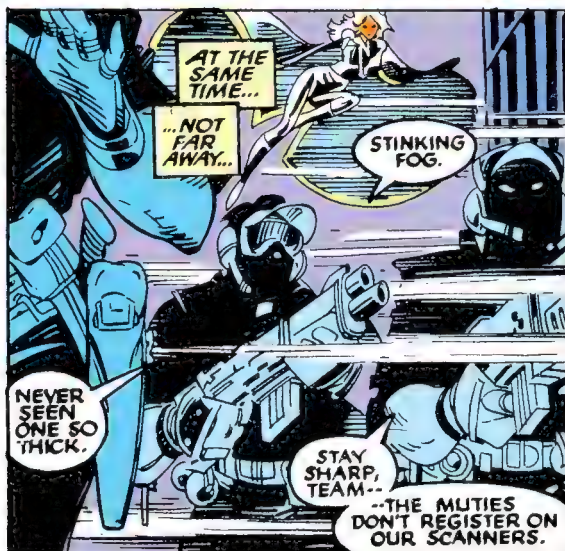
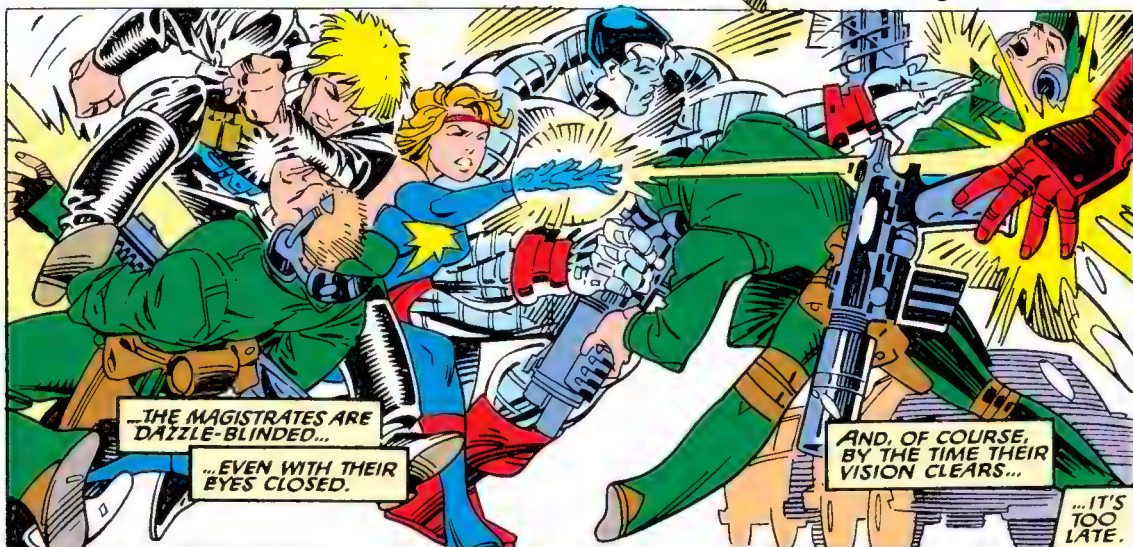
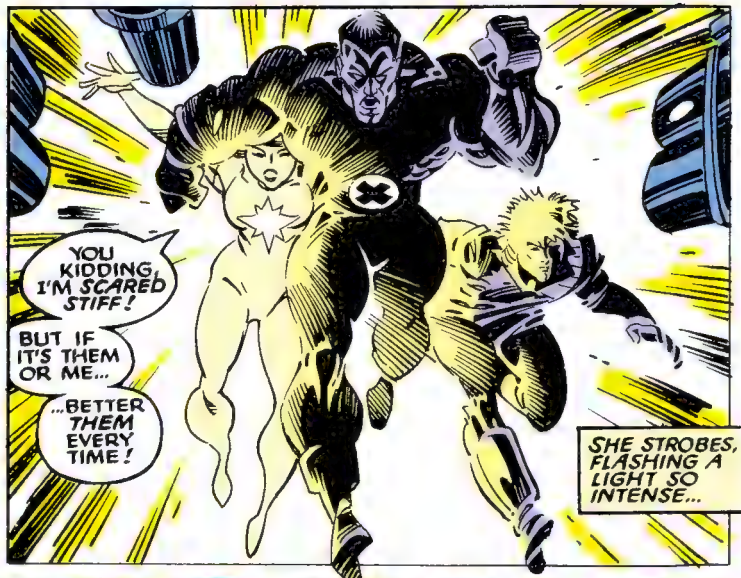
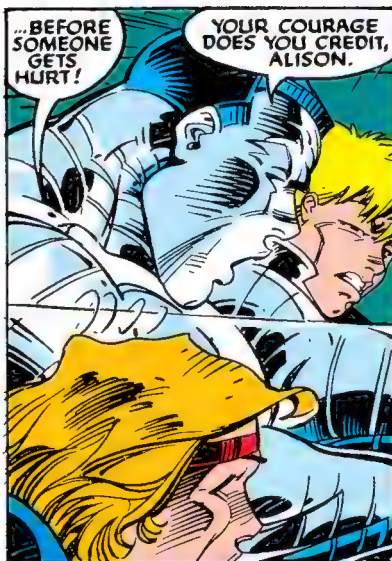
DUDE POPPED OUTTA THIN AIR!

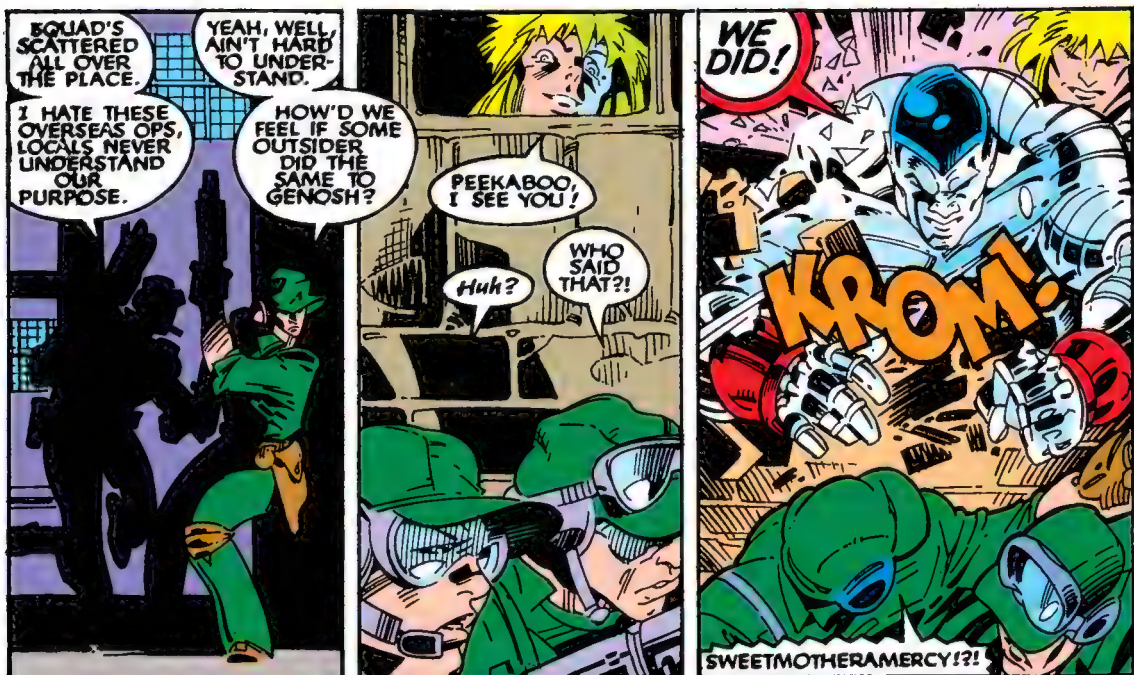
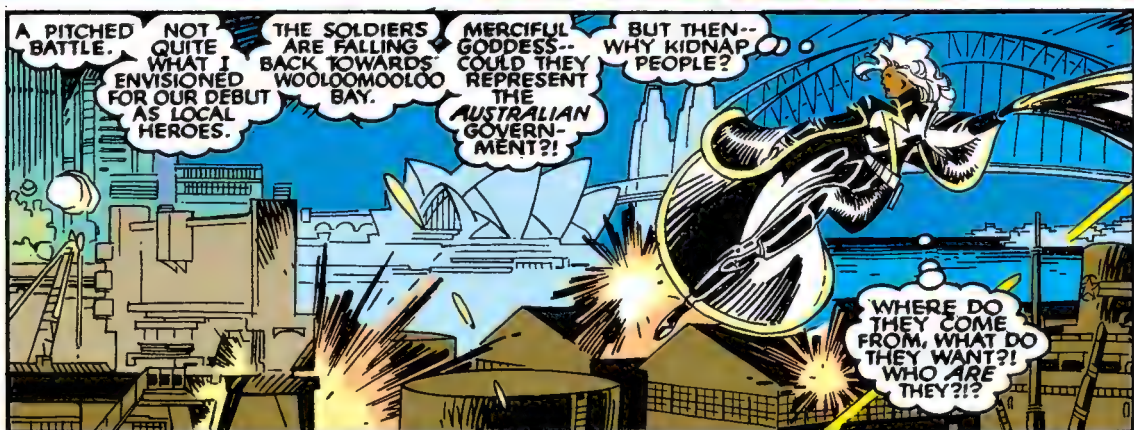
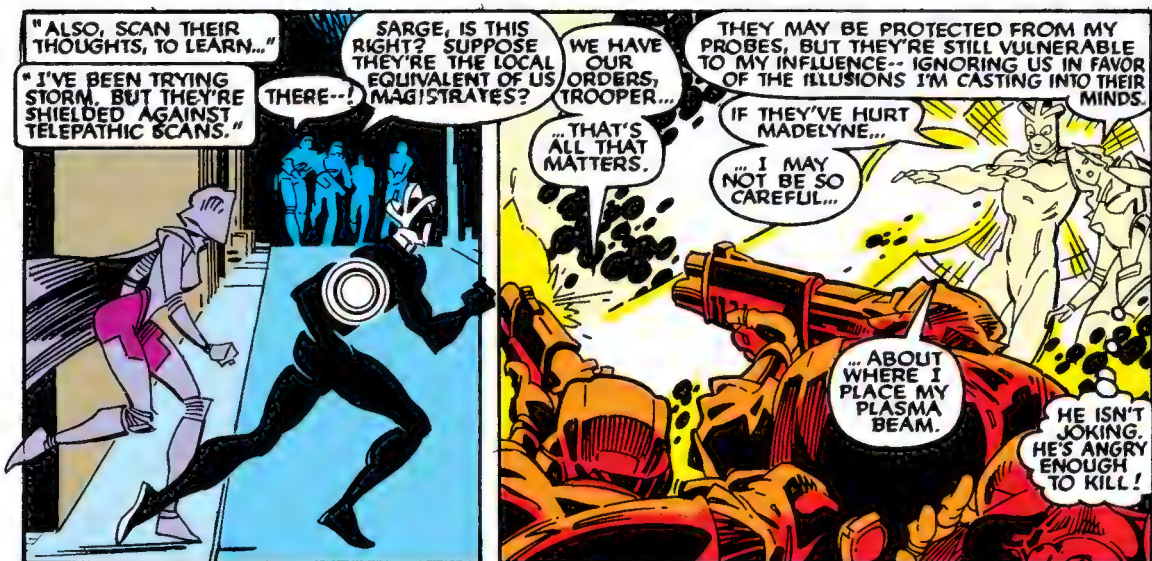
ONE O' THIS CROWD MUST BE A TELE-PORTER.

I DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO THREATS, BUB...









WHAT'CHER?!

TOLDJA, REG-- SOME KIND'A RUMPLUS ON CAP'N COOK'S GRAVING DOCK!

THINK WE SHOULD LEND A HAND?

TOO RIGHT, MATE--

--BUT WHICH SIDE?

LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS, VILLAINS--

WE'RE NO "VILLAINS." GENEJOKE-- WE'RE MAGISTRATES...

...WE'RE THE LAW!

CRIPES-- CIVILIANS!

--GET THEM AWAY FROM HERE, MY FRIENDS, AT ONCE!

BOSZHE MOI--

HIT THE BRICKS, TROOPER--

MOST GRENADES HAVE SEVEN-SECOND FUSES...

--I'LL COVER YOU!

...BUT THE FACT IS, ONCE THE PIN'S PULLED...

...THEY CAN BLOW UP ANYTIME.

LONGSHOT DOESN'T CONSIDER THAT.

HE TRUSTS TO HIS MIRACULOUS LUCK--

-- AND MOVES LIKE THE BLAZES!

AS DOES DAZZLER.

FLATTEN-- ALL OF YOU-- ON THE GROUND -- NOW!

THE BAD GUYS...

...HAVE MORE GUNS!

DO THEY MEAN TO SHOOT US WHILE OUR BACKS ARE TURNED?!

REALIZATION AND RESPONSE ARE INSTANTANEOUS.

OWH-- MY HAND!

HE SPIKED MY PISTOL!

BOOM!

SOIK!

WHUM!

AND AFTER THE WEAPONS...

HE DEALS WITH THE MEN.

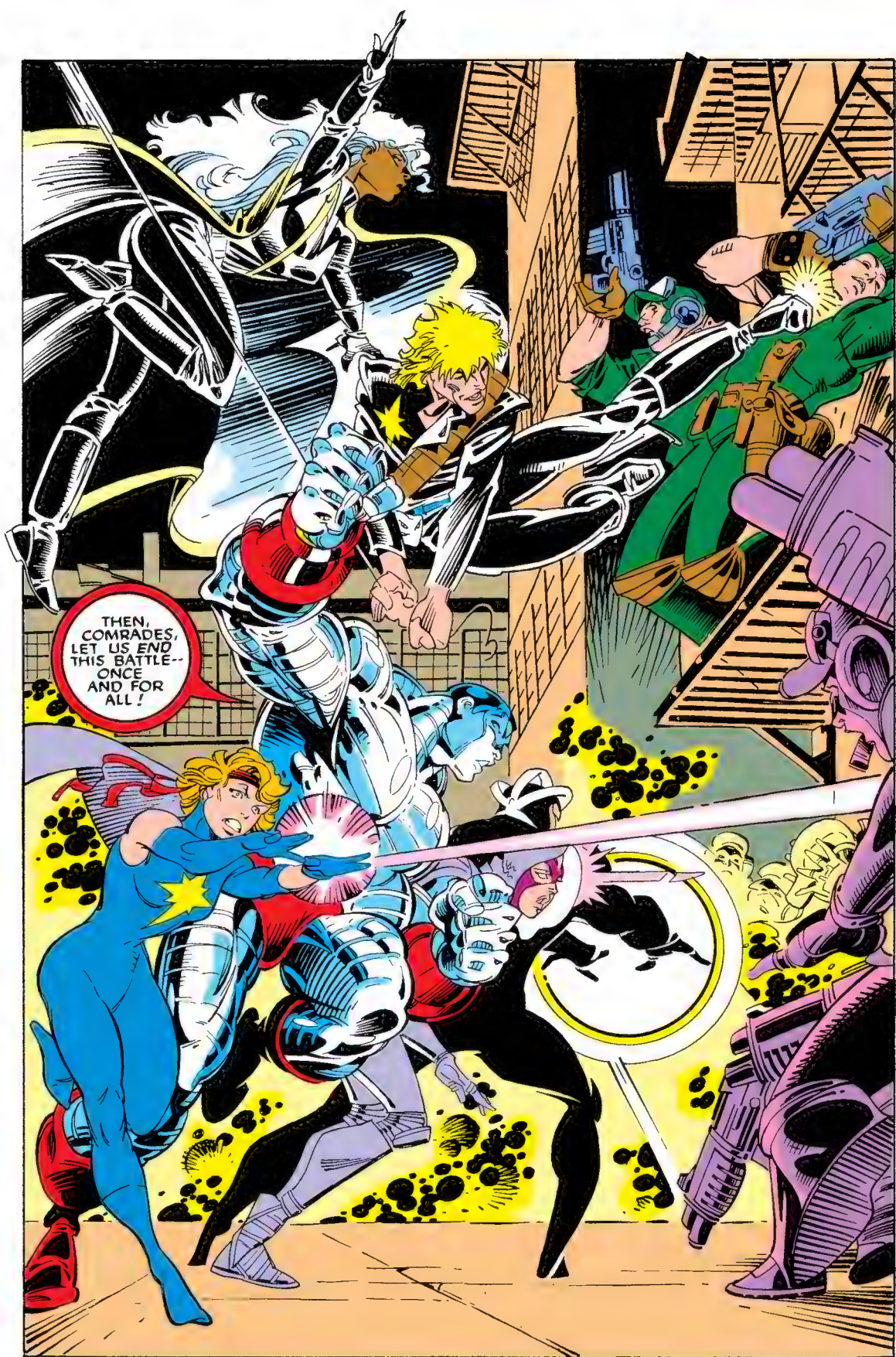
THEY DIDN'T CARE WHO THEY HURT...

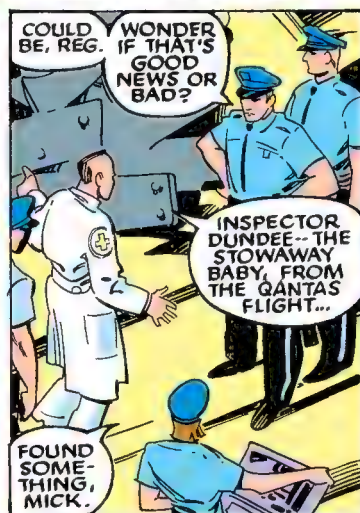
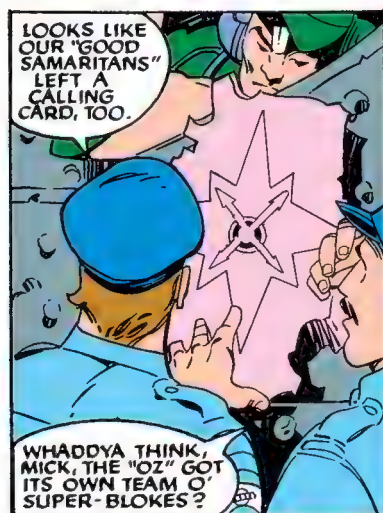
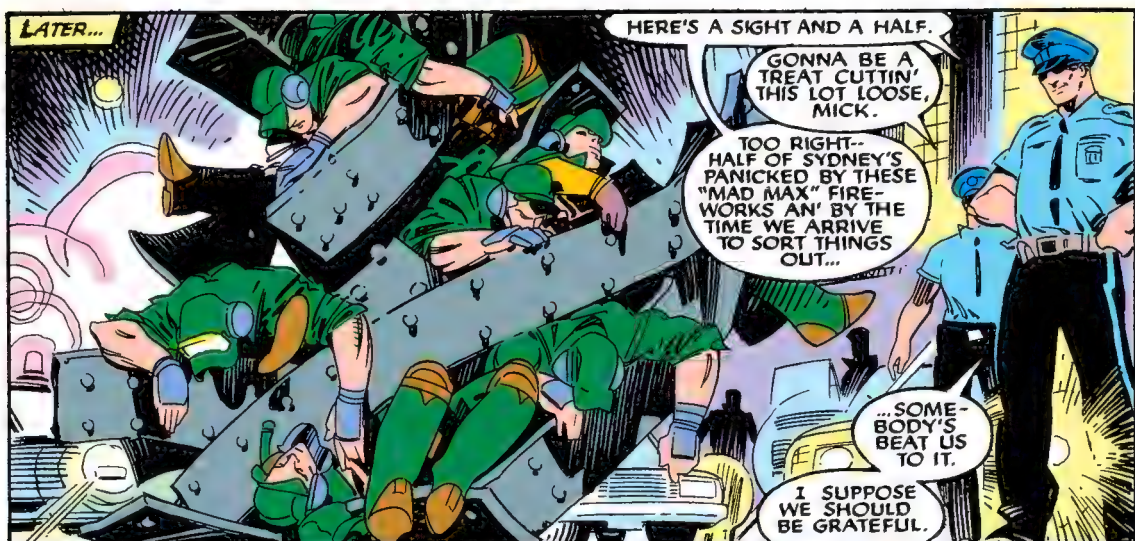
...SO LONG AS THEY GOT US--

--LIKE HAVOK SAID, NICE BUNCH'A FELLAS.

LONGER THIS LASTS...

...THE GREATER THE DANGER OF THAT HAPPENING!





NEXT:
BUSTING LOOSE!

MARVEL

THE UNCANNY



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\$1.00 US
\$1.25 CAN
236
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CC 02461

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

X-MEN

*Magistrates: 2
Mutants*



—SILVESTRI: GREEN—

STAN LEE
PRESENTS

BUSTING LOOSE!

THIS IS THE
CITADEL--

--HEAD-
QUARTERS OF
GENOSHAN
STATE
SECURITY.

STARRING THE
UNCANNY
X-MEN

ROGUE AND
WOLVERINE HAVE
JUST ARRIVED.

AS IS PLAIN TO SEE,
THEY ARE NOT TERRIBLY
PLEASED TO BE HERE.

CHRIS
CLAREMONT
WRITER

MARC
SILVESTRI
PENCILER

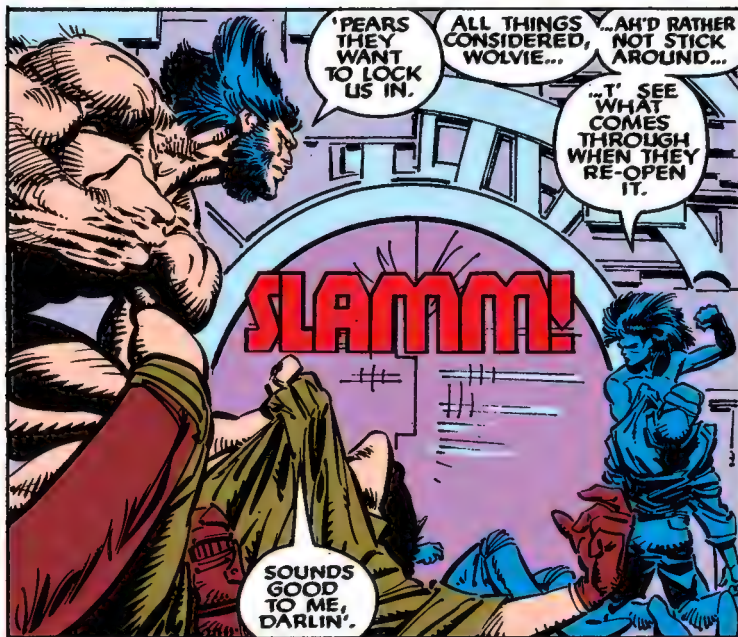
DAN
GREEN
INKER

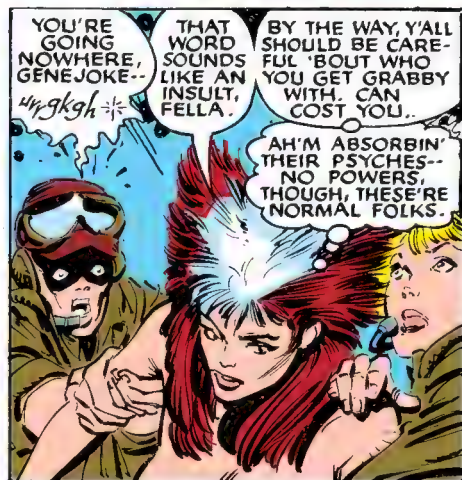
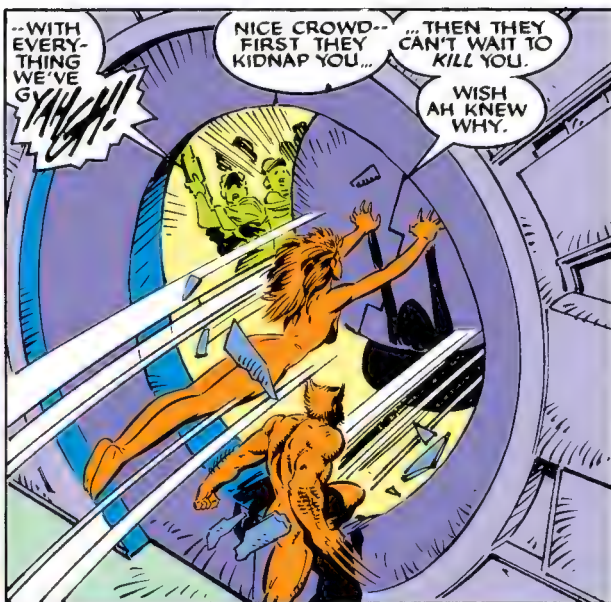
PETRA
SCOTESI
COLORIST

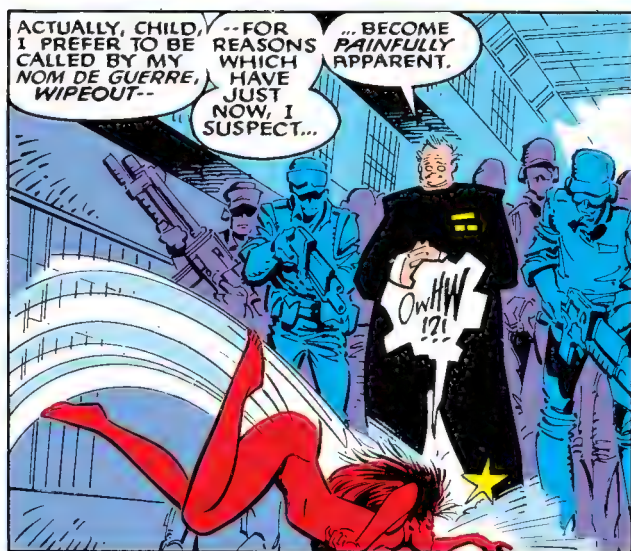
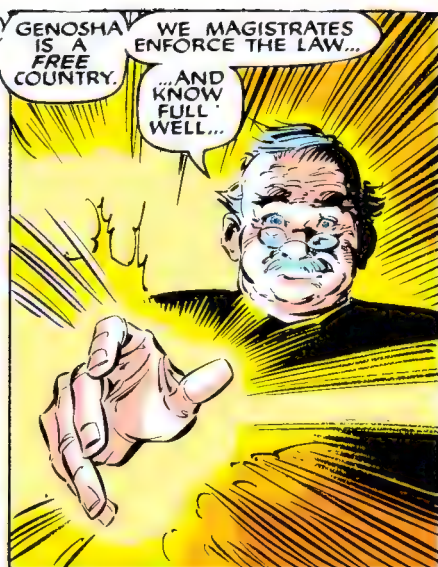
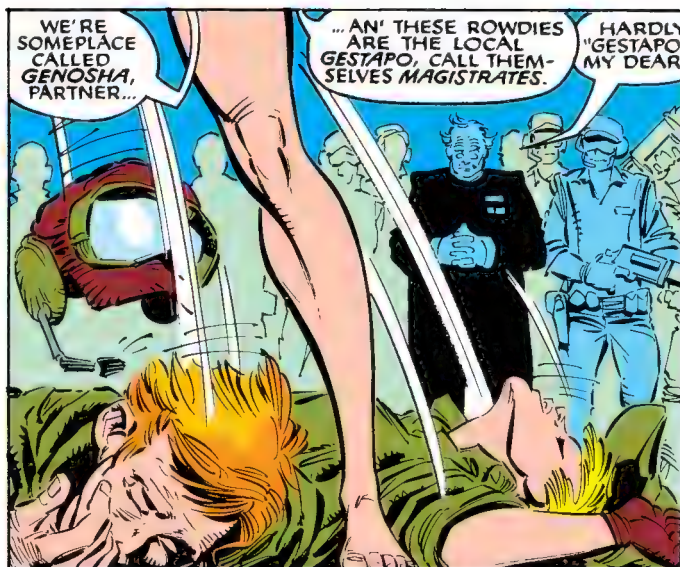
TOM
ORZECOWSKI
LETTERER

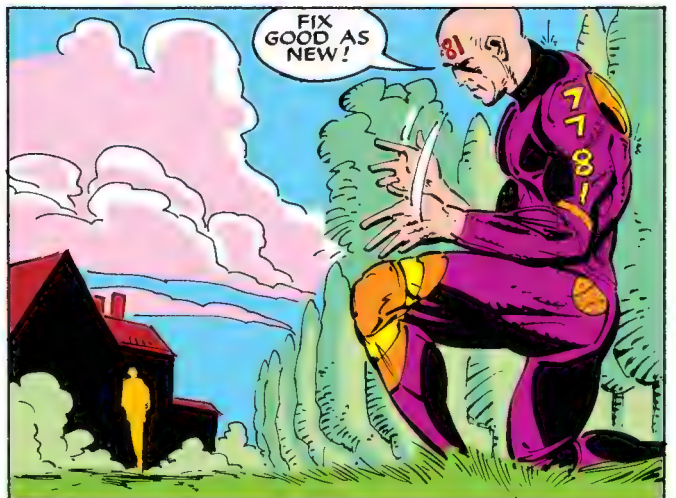
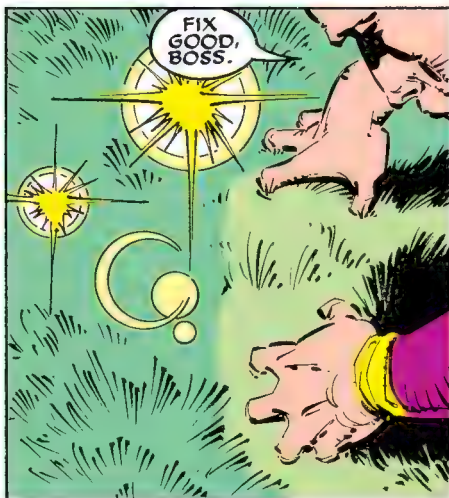
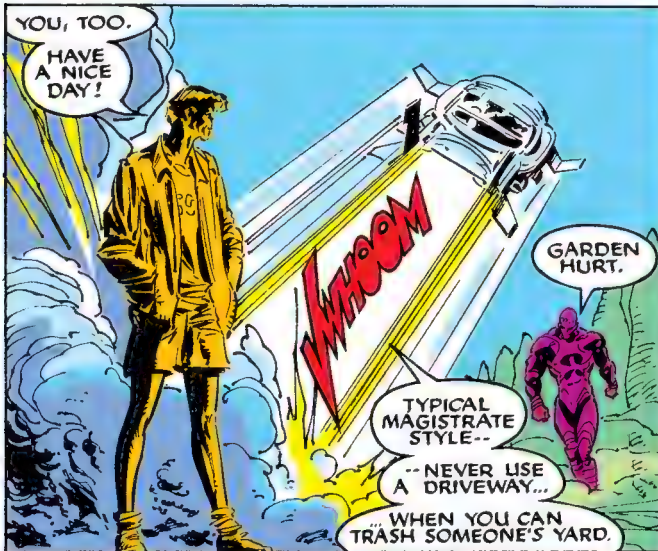
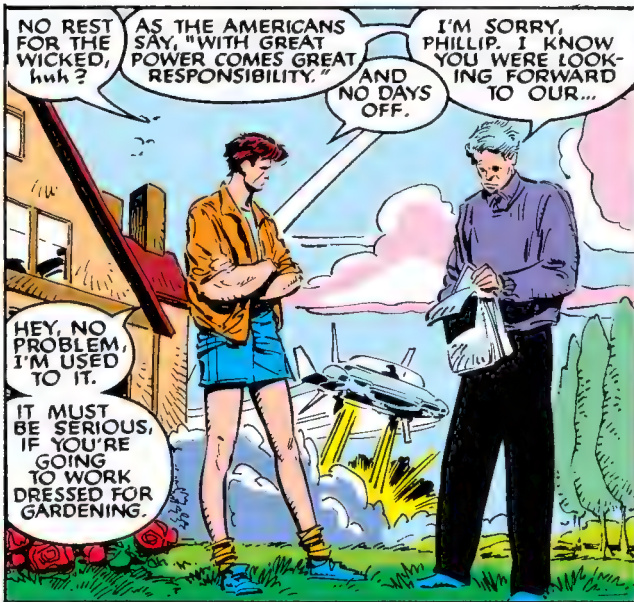
BOB
HARRAS
EDITOR

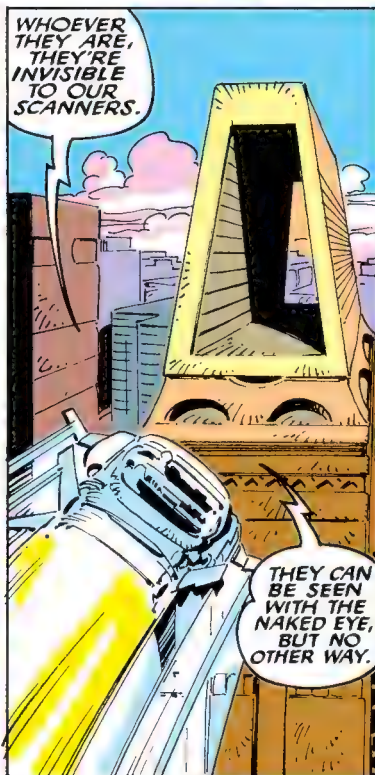
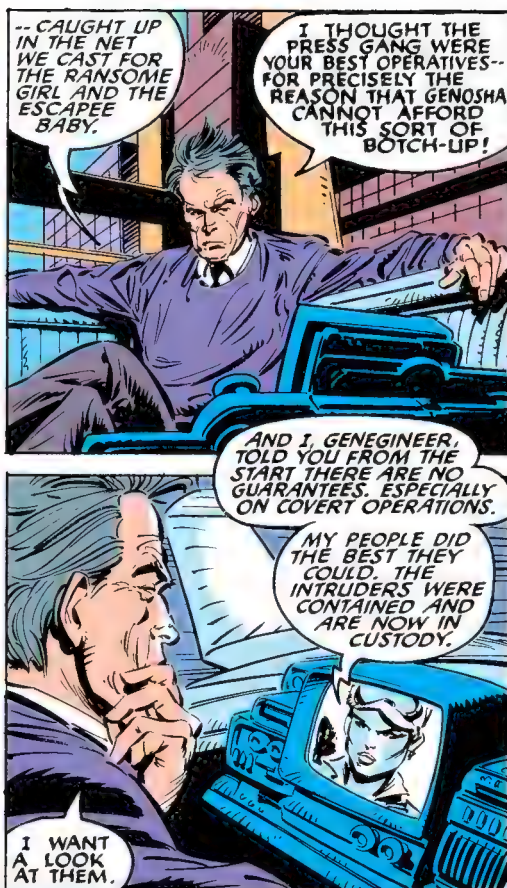
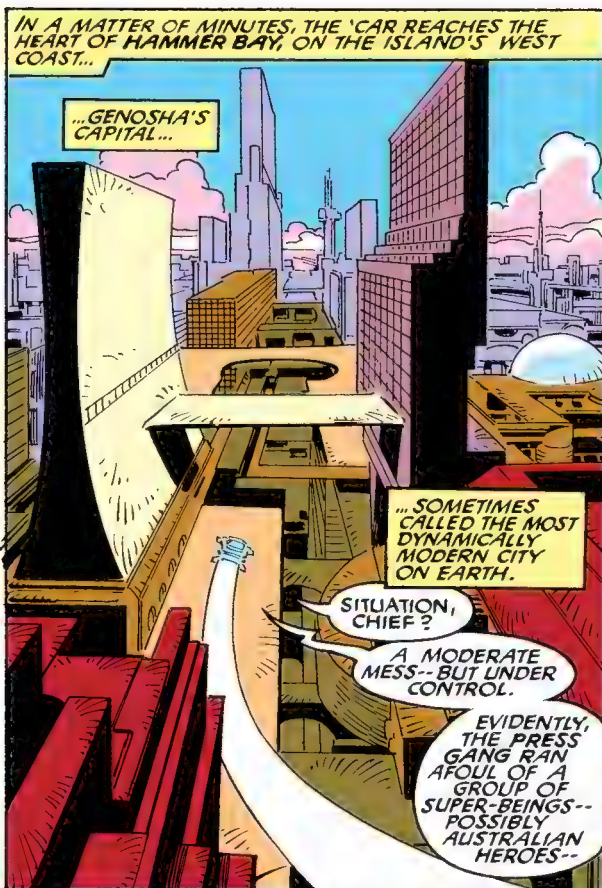
TOM
DeFALCO
MAGISTRATE













SO-- WHO THE DEVIL ARE THEY?

GOOD QUESTION. WE DON'T KNOW; WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY THEM.



THEY'RE NOT IN OUR NATIVE COMPUTER NET AND EVERY TIME WE TRY TO INTERFACE WITH AN OVERSEAS DATA BASE-- PRIVATE, PUBLIC, GOVERNMENT, WIDE OPEN OR TOTALLY SECURED--

--WE GET A NULL RESPONSE.

THE COMPUTECHS THEORIZE A VIRUS PROGRAM IN OPERATION--



--SO INCREDIBLY SOPHISTICATED, WE CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO ISOLATE IT.

FURTHER, IT ERASES EVERY REFERENCE, NO MATTER HOW SLIGHT, TO OUR PRISONERS.



WORSE, THEY SUSPECT OUR INQUIRIES HAVE INFECTED OUR OWN SYSTEMS.

I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT AT ALL.

NOR I.



CHIEF-- THAT GIRL-- WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?!

SHE'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE HER CAPTURE.

I'M AFRAID SOME OF MY OFFICERS TOOK A FEW LIBERTIES WHEN SHE WAS BEING PROCESSED.

WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS FUN, SHE EVIDENTLY FELT WAS SOMETHING ELSE.



THOSE RESPONSIBLE HAVE BEEN DISCIPLINED. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

IF IT DOES, CHIEF ANDERSON, YOU'LL ANSWER FOR IT.



I THOUGHT YOUR PEOPLE WERE PROFESSIONALS.

THEY'RE HUMAN. THEY'RE FALLIBLE.

HAWKSHAW'S FOLLOW-ON REPORTS INDICATE THESE TWO ARE PART OF A LARGER TEAM.

WHICH MEANS THEIR COMPANIONS MAY WELL BE LOOKING FOR THEM...

...AND EVENTUALLY BE COMING TO THEIR RESCUE.

MY STAFF VIEWS THAT AS A VIRTUAL CERTAINTY.

I UNDERSTAND SOME MAGISTRATES WERE CAPTURED BY AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES IN THAT ENGAGEMENT?



"THE PRESS GANG'S
ALREADY WORKING, SIR..."

"...TO BRING
THEM HOME."

SYDNEY-- CAPITAL
OF NEW SOUTH
WALES, ONE OF THE
SEVEN STATES THAT
COMPRISE THE
AUSTRALIAN NATION--

-- BARELY A DAY AFTER THE PITCHED
BATTLE BETWEEN THE X-MEN AND
THAT AFOREMENTIONED CADRE OF
GENOSHAN MAGISTRATES.

LOTTA COPS
ON DUTY,
TONIGHT.

LOTS OF MESS,
PUNCHOUT, FOR
THEM TO CLEAN UP.

HEY, HAWKSHAW--
YOU SURE THIS IS
THE RIGHT PLACE?

RELAX,
PIPELINE--

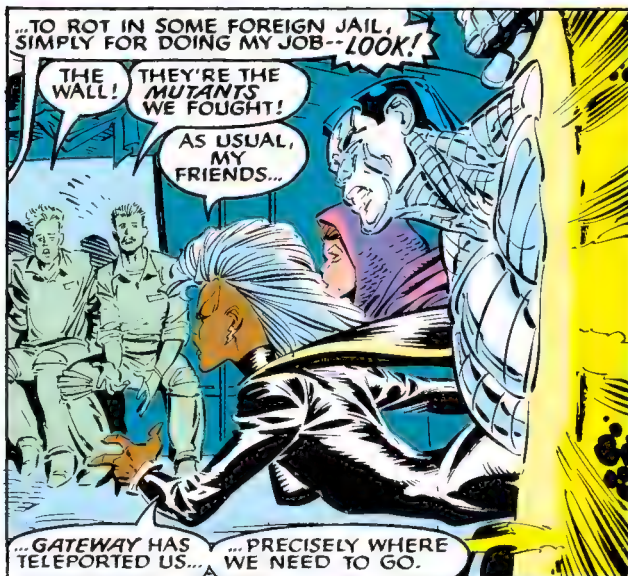


DID YOU SEE THOSE
OFFICERS, WHEN
WE WERE
PROCESSED--

--LOOKING
AT US LIKE
WE WERE
CRIMINALS!

IN THEIR
EYES,
DEPUTY,
WE ARE.

I DIDN'T BECOME
A MAGISTRATE...



...TO ROT IN SOME FOREIGN JAIL,
SIMPLY FOR DOING MY JOB--LOOK!

THE
WALL!

THEY'RE THE
MUTANTS
WE FOUGHT!

AS USUAL,
MY
FRIENDS...

...GATEWAY HAS
TELEPORTED US...

...PRECISELY WHERE
WE NEED TO GO.



YOU HERE
TO FINISH
US OFF,
GENEJOKE?

DO
NOT
TEMPT
ME.

THAT WORD--
"GENEJOKE"--

I DO
NOT
LIKE IT.

MAKES US
EVEN, I DON'T
LIKE YOU!

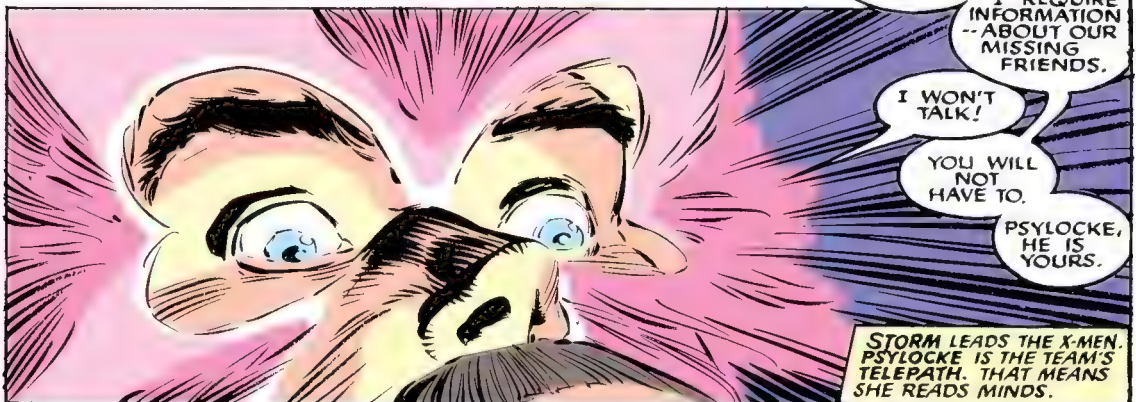
GOOD. THAT
WILL MAKE
THIS MORE...
PLEASANT.

I REQUIRE
INFORMATION
--ABOUT OUR
MISSING
FRIENDS.

I WON'T
TALK!

YOU WILL
NOT
HAVE TO.

PSYLOCKE,
HE IS
YOURS.



STORM LEADS THE X-MEN.
PSYLOCKE IS THE TEAM'S
TELEPATH. THAT MEANS
SHE READS MINDS.

WRENCH OF
DISLOCATION.

CASTING OF
SELF INTO
SHADOW,
DANCING
GAILY ON THE
EDGE OF AN
INFINITE ABYSS.

PSYCHIC
ARMOR WRAPPED
AS TIGHTLY
ABOUT HER
CONSCIOUSNESS

...AS ITS PHYSICAL
COUNTERPART...

...IS ABOUT
HER BODY.

THERE ARE
DEFENSES--

--EASILY
BYPASSED.

FEAR TRAVELING
HAND-IN-HAND
WITH WONDER...

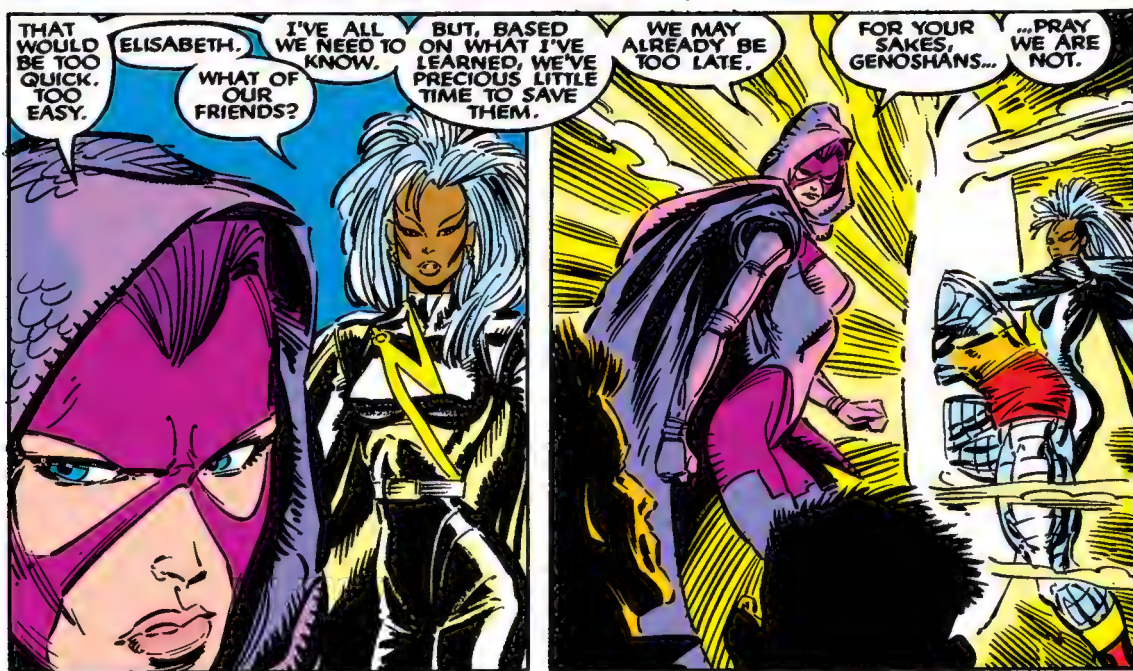
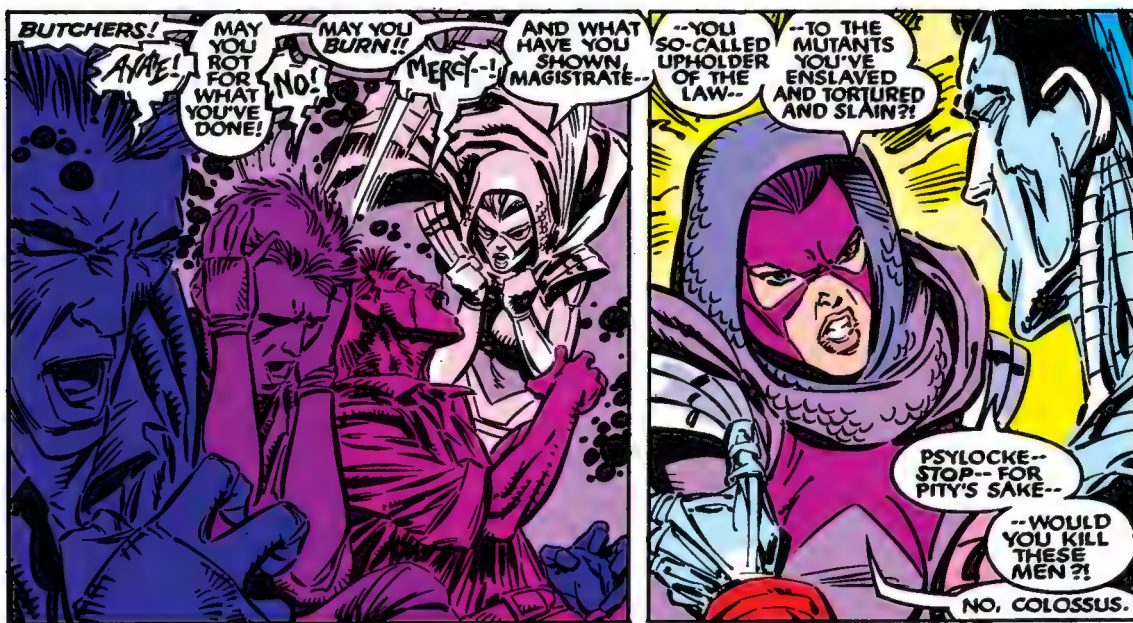
...AS SHE MARVELS AT
HER MUTANT ABILITY...

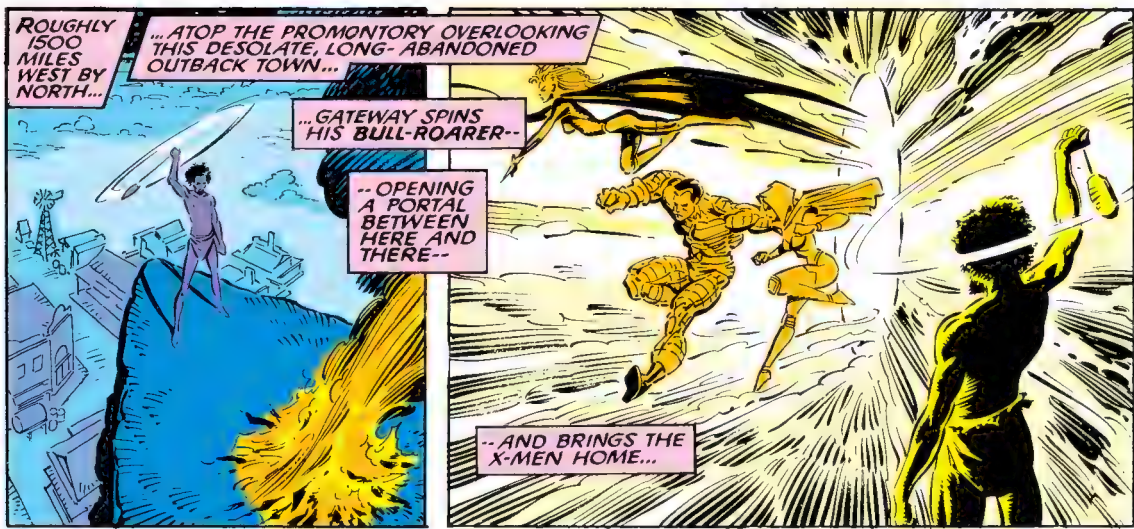
...TO TOUCH ANOTHER'S
INNERMOST BEING...

...WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY
DREADING-- TO THE DEPTHS
OF HER SOUL--

--WHAT SHE'LL
FIND THERE.







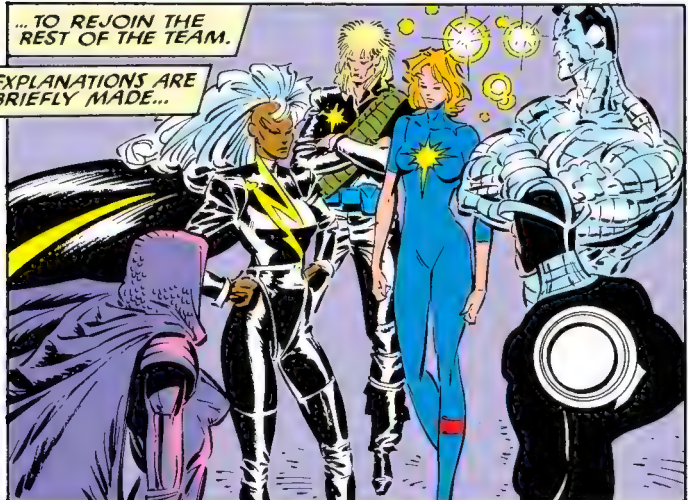
ROUGHLY 1500 MILES WEST BY NORTH...

...ATOP THE PROMONTORY OVERLOOKING THIS DESOLATE, LONG-ABANDONED OUTBACK TOWN...

...GATEWAY SPINS HIS BULL-ROARER--

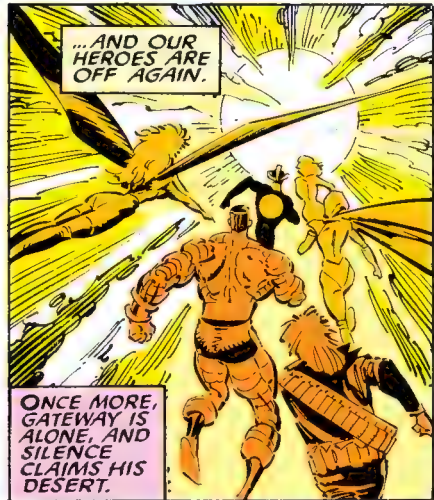
-- OPENING A PORTAL BETWEEN HERE AND THERE--

-- AND BRINGS THE X-MEN HOME...



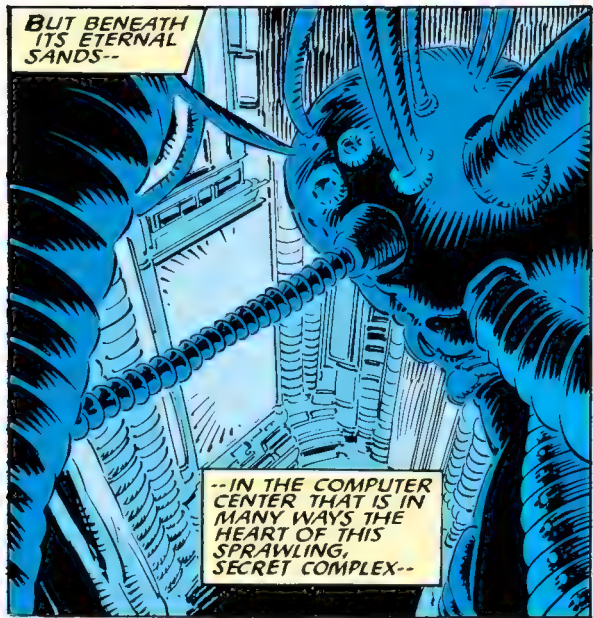
...TO REJOIN THE REST OF THE TEAM.

EXPLANATIONS ARE BRIEFLY MADE...



...AND OUR HEROES ARE OFF AGAIN.

ONCE MORE, GATEWAY IS ALONE, AND SILENCE CLAIMS HIS DESERT.



BUT BENEATH ITS ETERNAL SANDS--

--IN THE COMPUTER CENTER THAT IS IN MANY WAYS THE HEART OF THIS SPRAWLING, SECRET COMPLEX--



--THINGS ARE HAPPENING.

HELLO?

HELLO?!

I AM N'ASTIRH. SYM TOLD ME TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU...

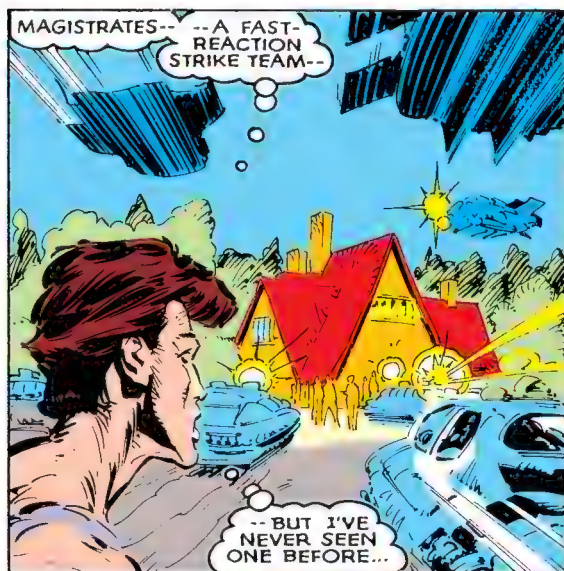


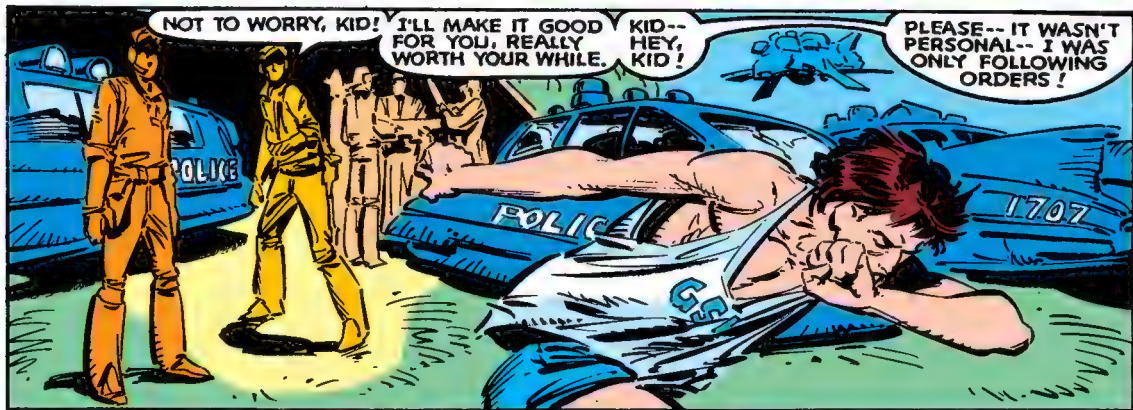
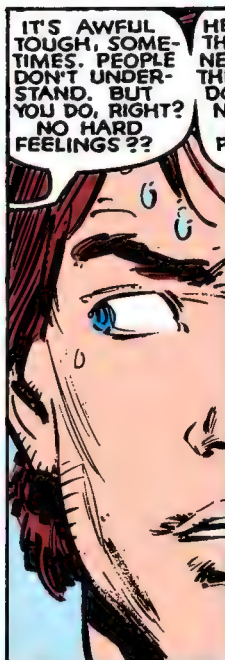
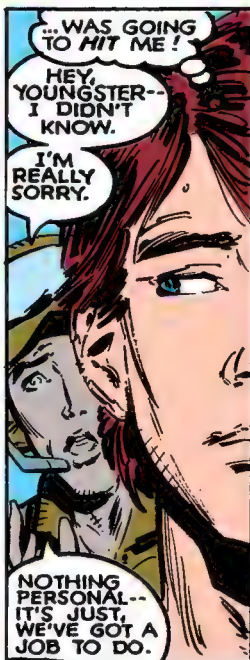
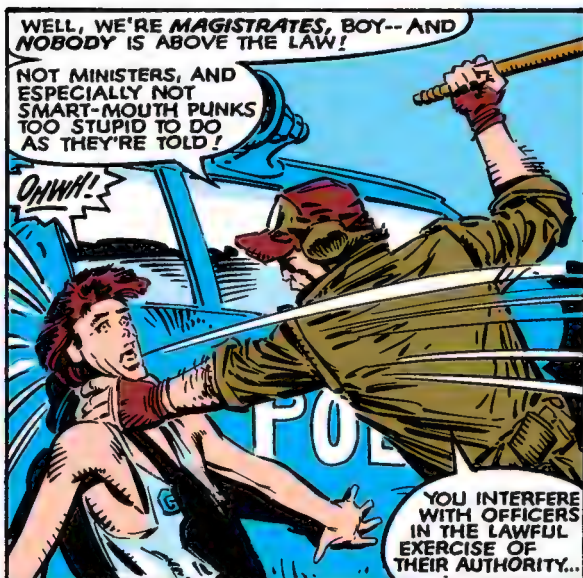
"REGARDING SOME 'SPECIAL' MERCHANDISE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN.

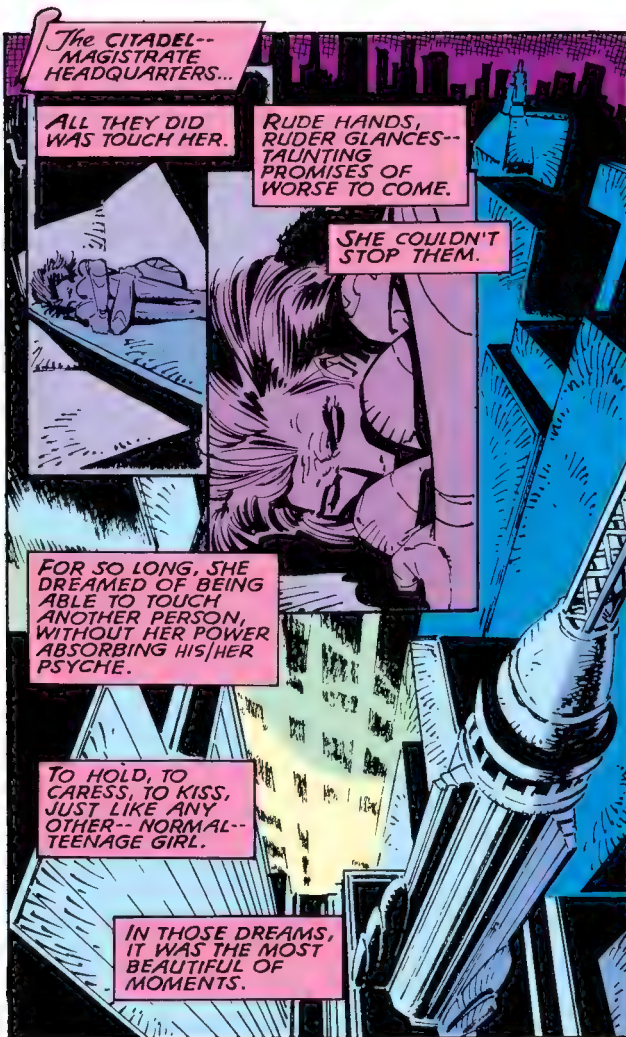
BUT SINCE YOU'RE NOT ABOUT...

...I'LL RING BACK LATER.

HAVE A NICE DAY.







The CITADEL--
MAGISTRATE
HEADQUARTERS...

ALL THEY DID
WAS TOUCH HER.

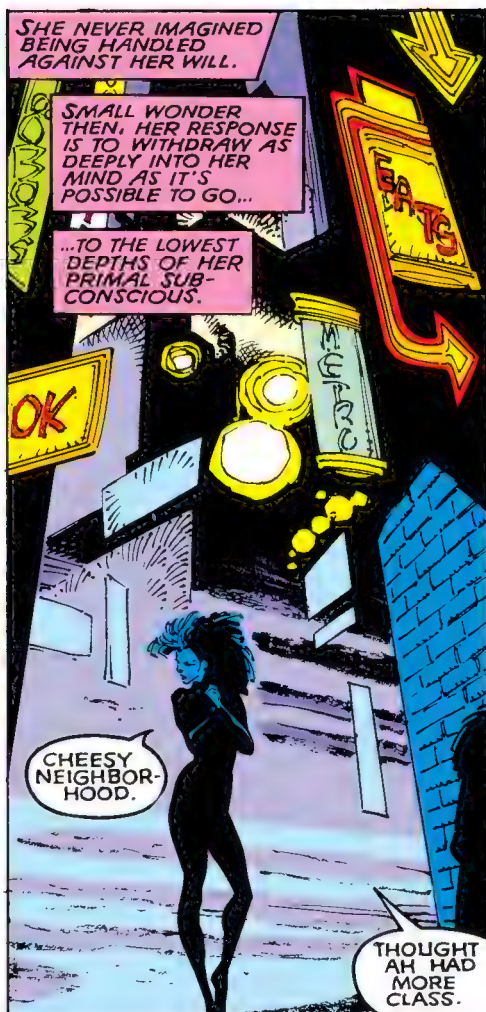
RUDE HANDS,
RUDER GLANCES--
TAUNTING
PROMISES OF
WORSE TO COME.

SHE COULDN'T
STOP THEM.

FOR SO LONG, SHE
DREAMED OF BEING
ABLE TO TOUCH
ANOTHER PERSON,
WITHOUT HER POWER
ABSORBING HIS/HER
PSYCHE.

TO HOLD, TO
CARESS, TO KISS,
JUST LIKE ANY
OTHER-- NORMAL--
TEENAGE GIRL.

IN THOSE DREAMS,
IT WAS THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL OF
MOMENTS.



SHE NEVER IMAGINED
BEING HANDLED
AGAINST HER WILL.

SMALL WONDER
THEN, HER RESPONSE
IS TO WITHDRAW AS
DEEPLY INTO HER
MIND AS IT'S
POSSIBLE TO GO...

...TO THE LOWEST
DEPTHS OF HER
PRIMAL SUB-
CONSCIOUS.

CHEESY
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD.

THOUGHT
AH HAD
MORE
CLASS.



SWEET NORN, SEE WHO'S
COME TO VISIT!

REMEMBER
US, DEARIE?

ALL THE
PEOPLE AH EVER
ABSORBED--

--BUT THAT
EFFECT IS ONLY
TEMPORARY--

--HOW CAN
Y'ALL STILL
BE INSIDE
MY HEAD?!

STOLEN
POWERS AND
MEMORIES
FADE,
LIEBCHEN...

... BUT
THERE'S
A PSYCHIC
RESIDUE--



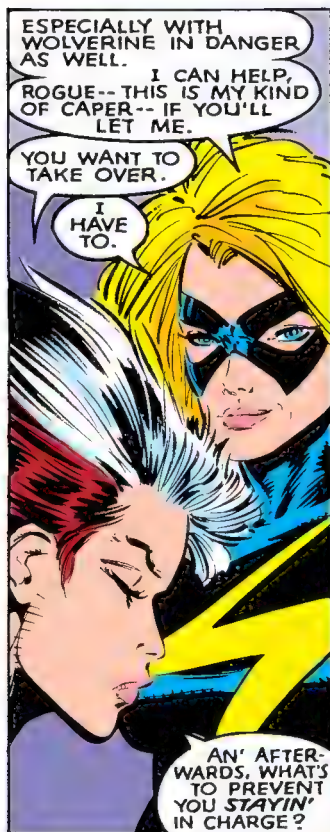
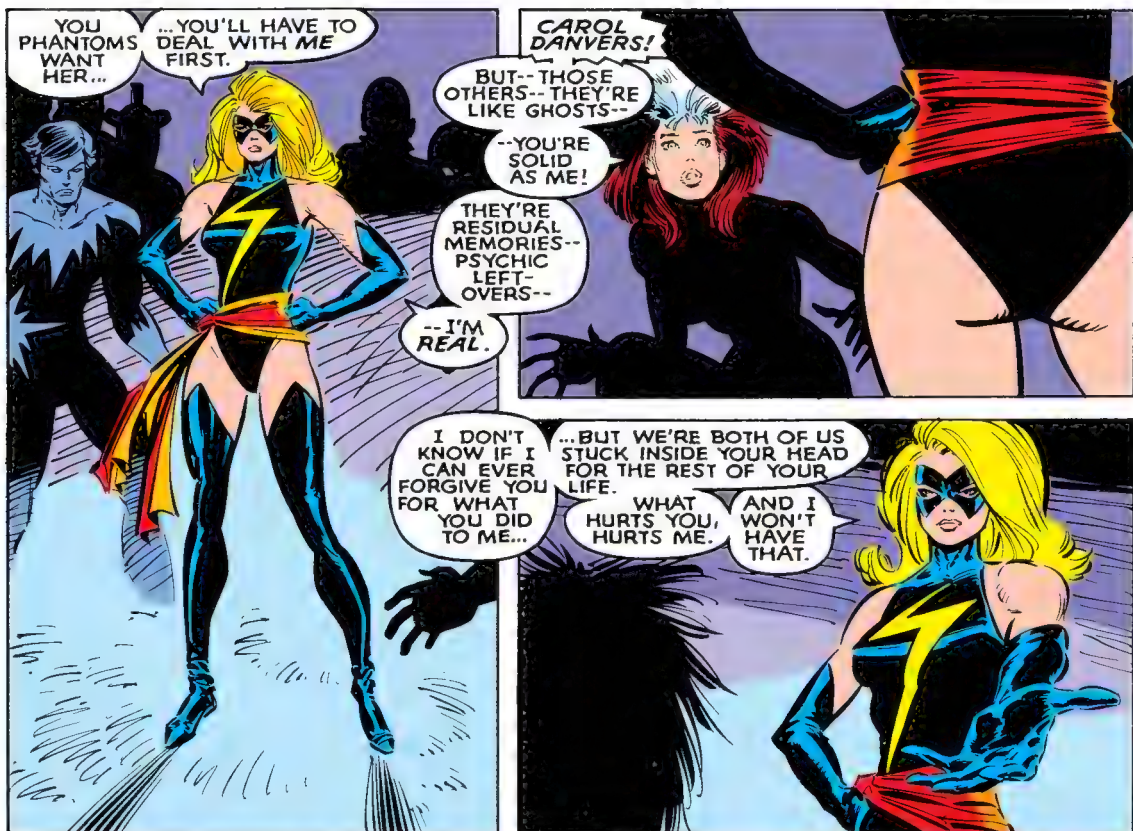
--SORT'A LIKE Y--THAT
SCAR TISSUE-- YOU'LL
NEVER BE
RID OF!

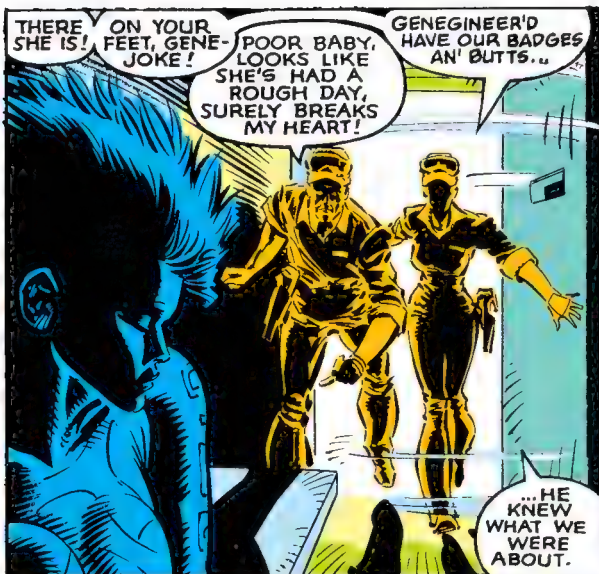
WE'RE ALL
A PART OF
YOU, GENE-
JOKE!

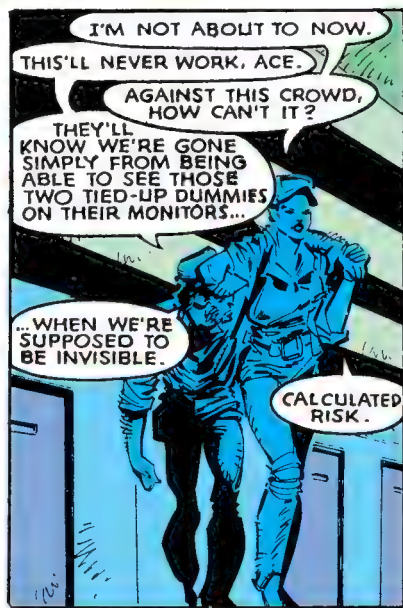
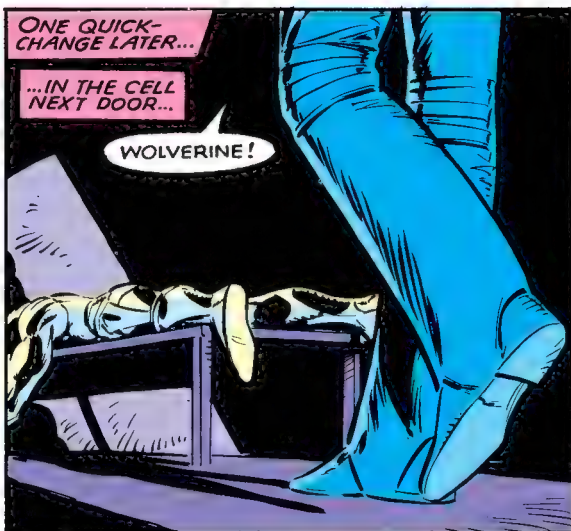
NO!

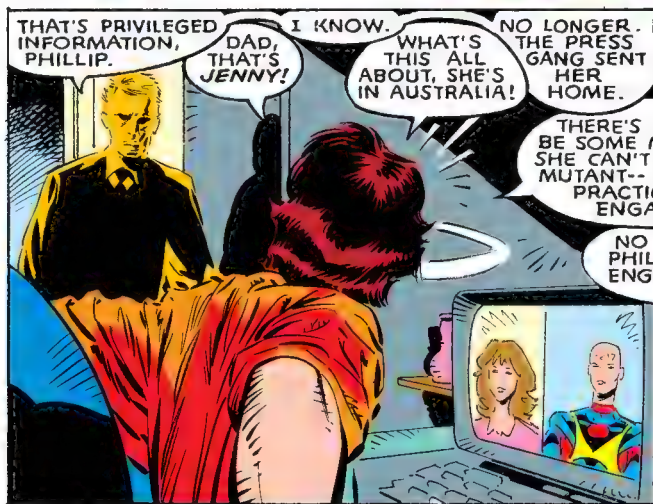
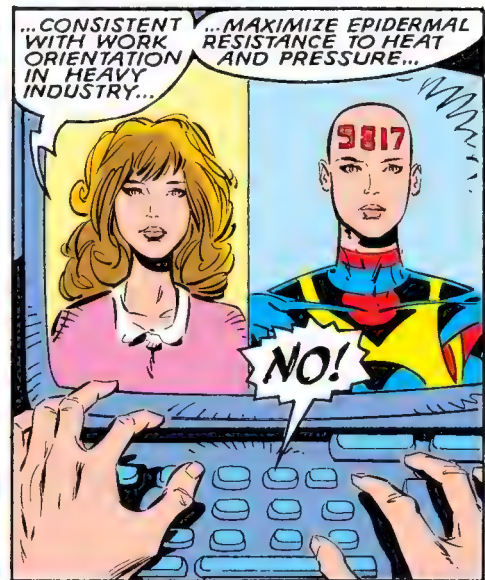
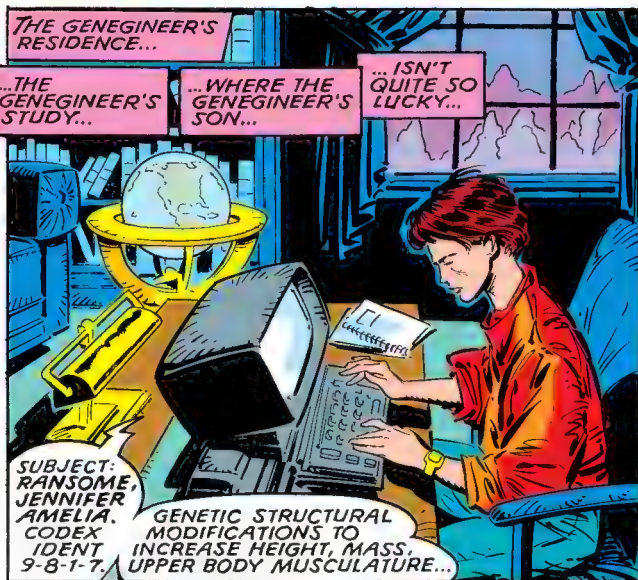
AND NOW THOU
HAST LOST THY
POWERS AND BE-
COME VULNERABLE...

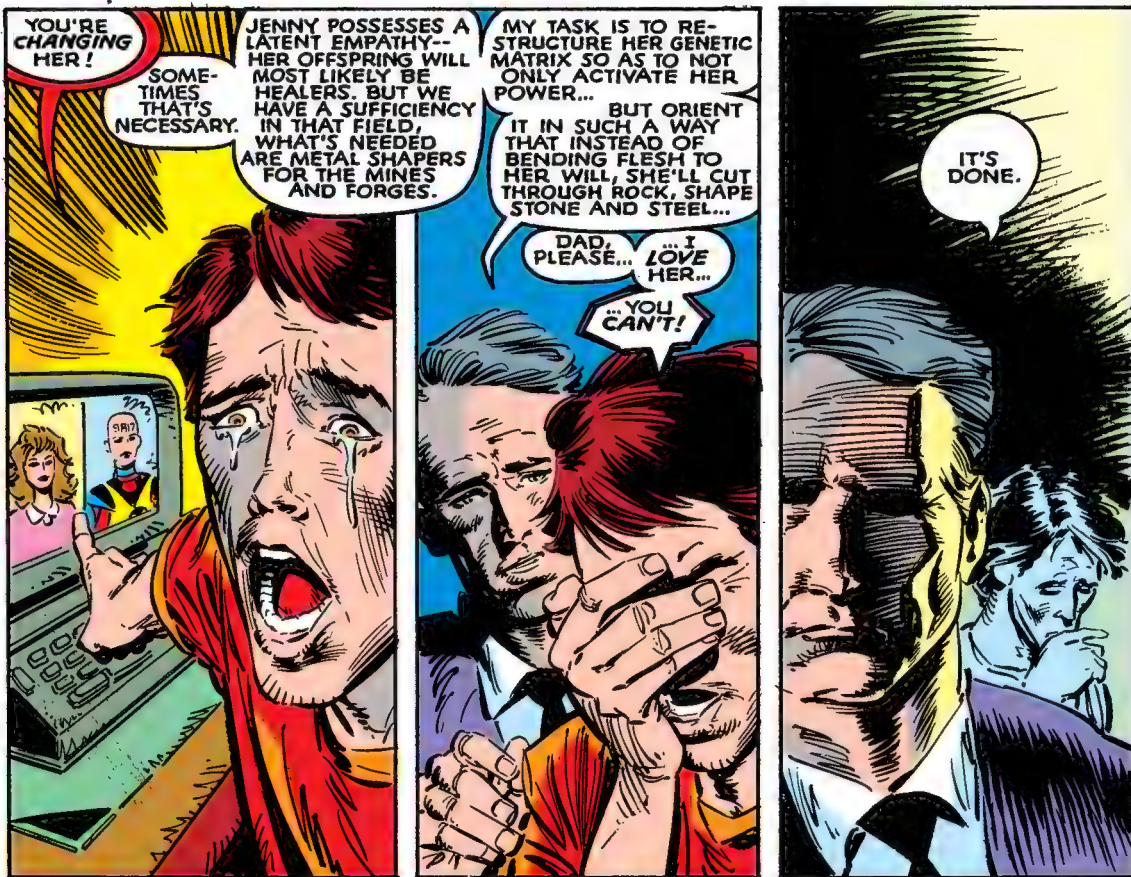
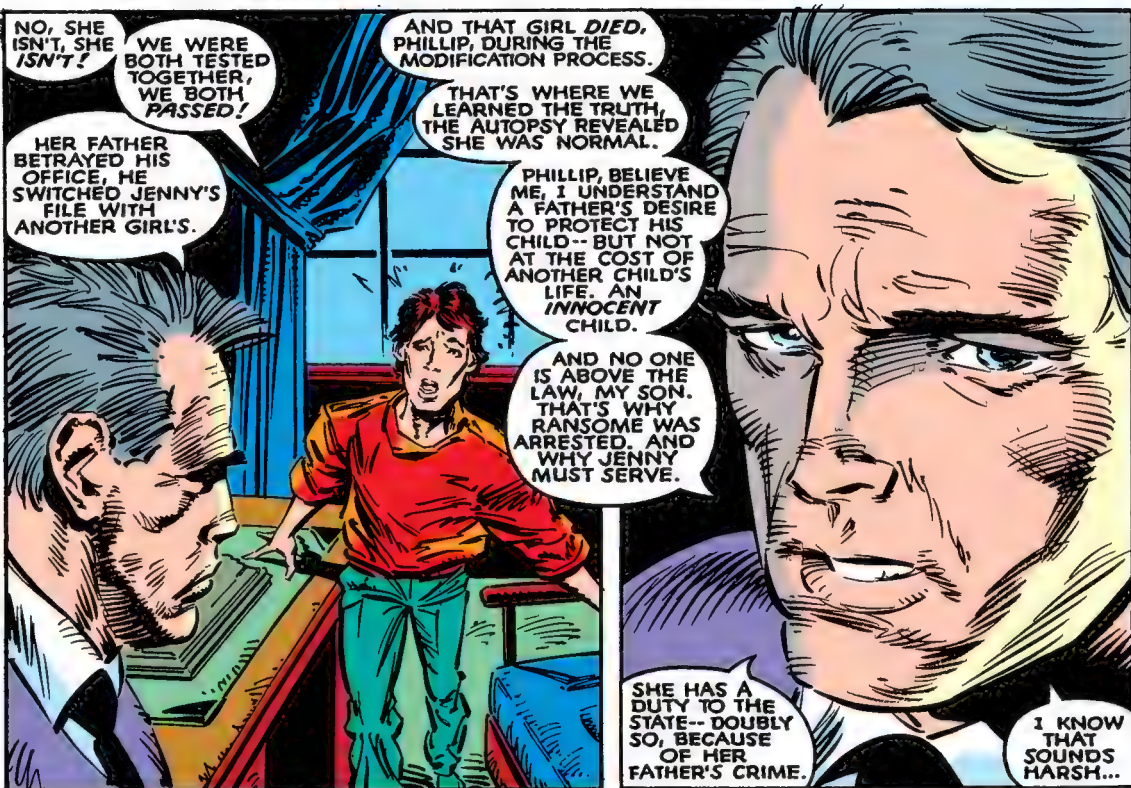
...WE CAN'T
WAIT TO
TEAR YOU
TO BITS!

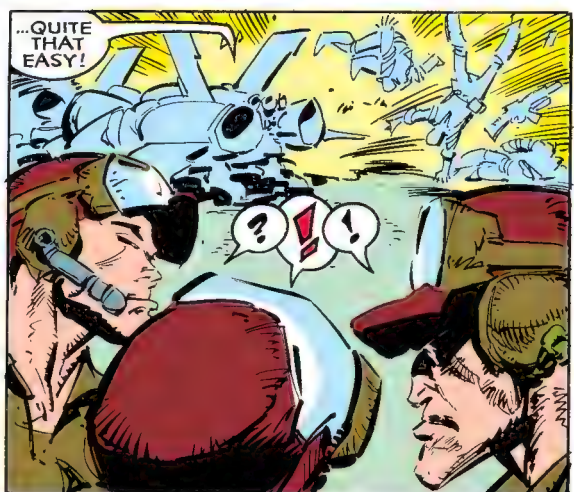
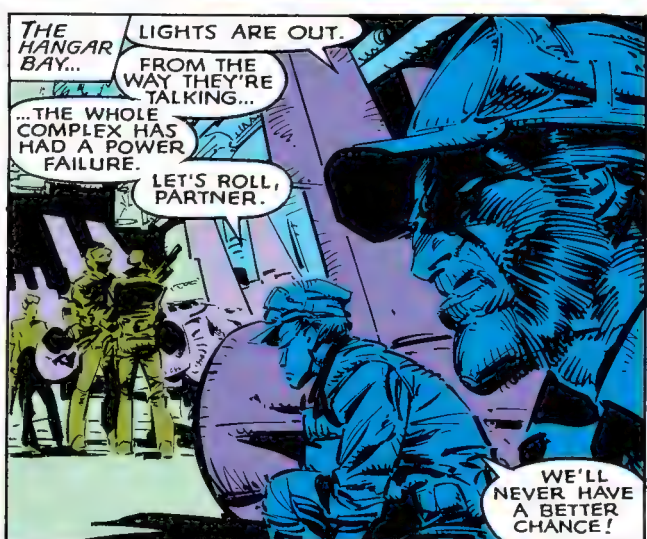
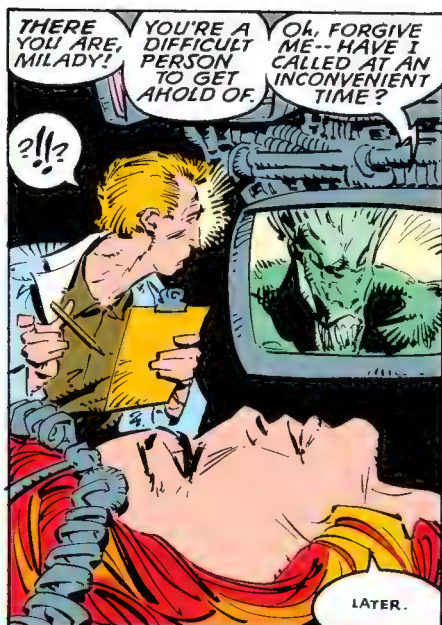
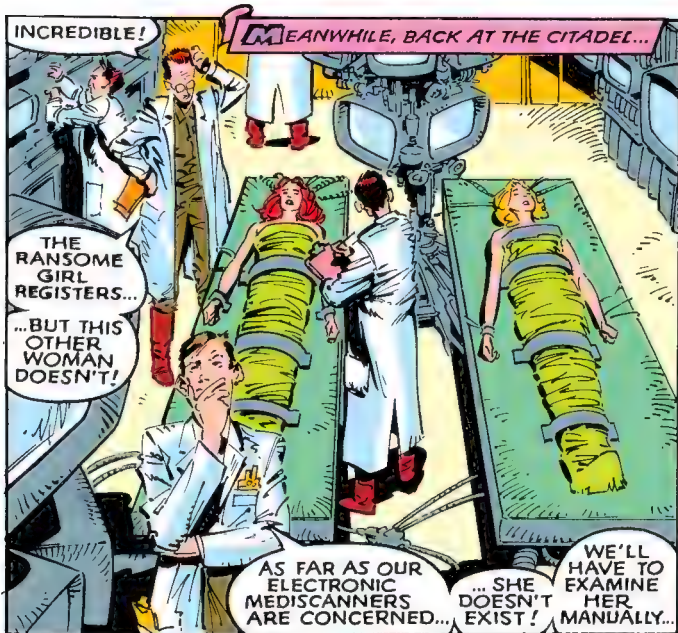


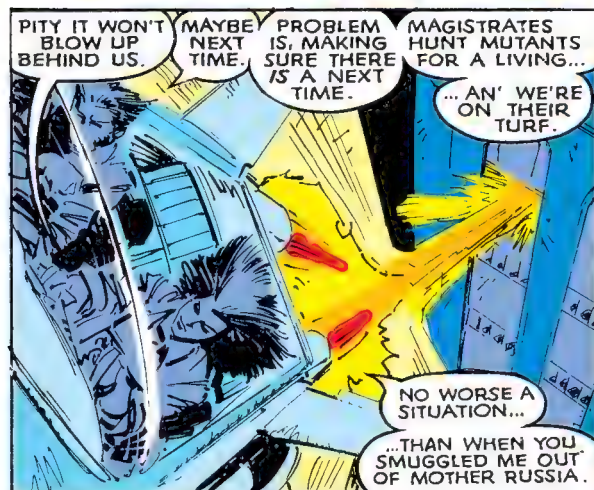
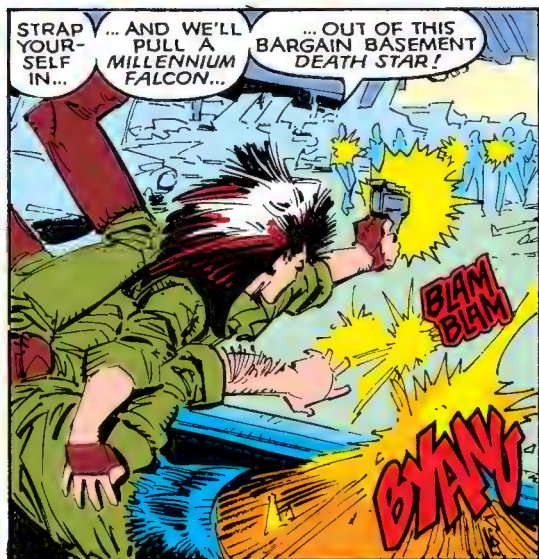
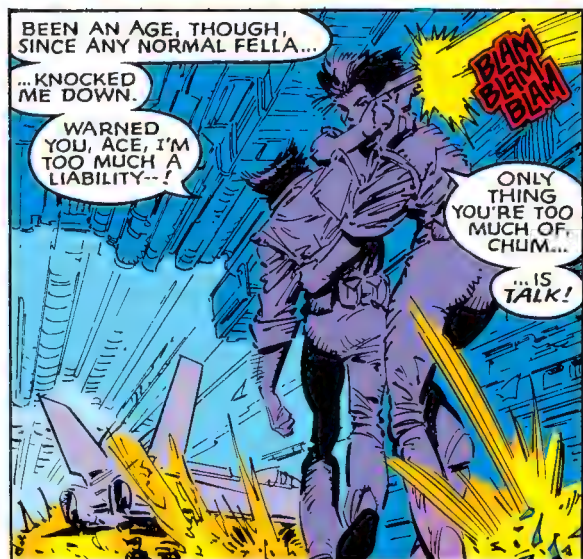
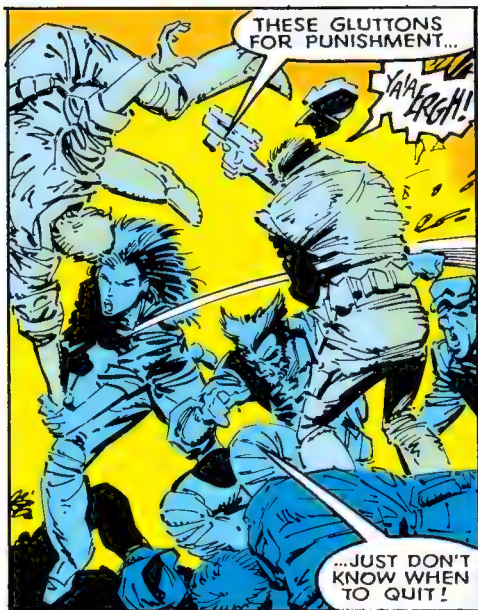












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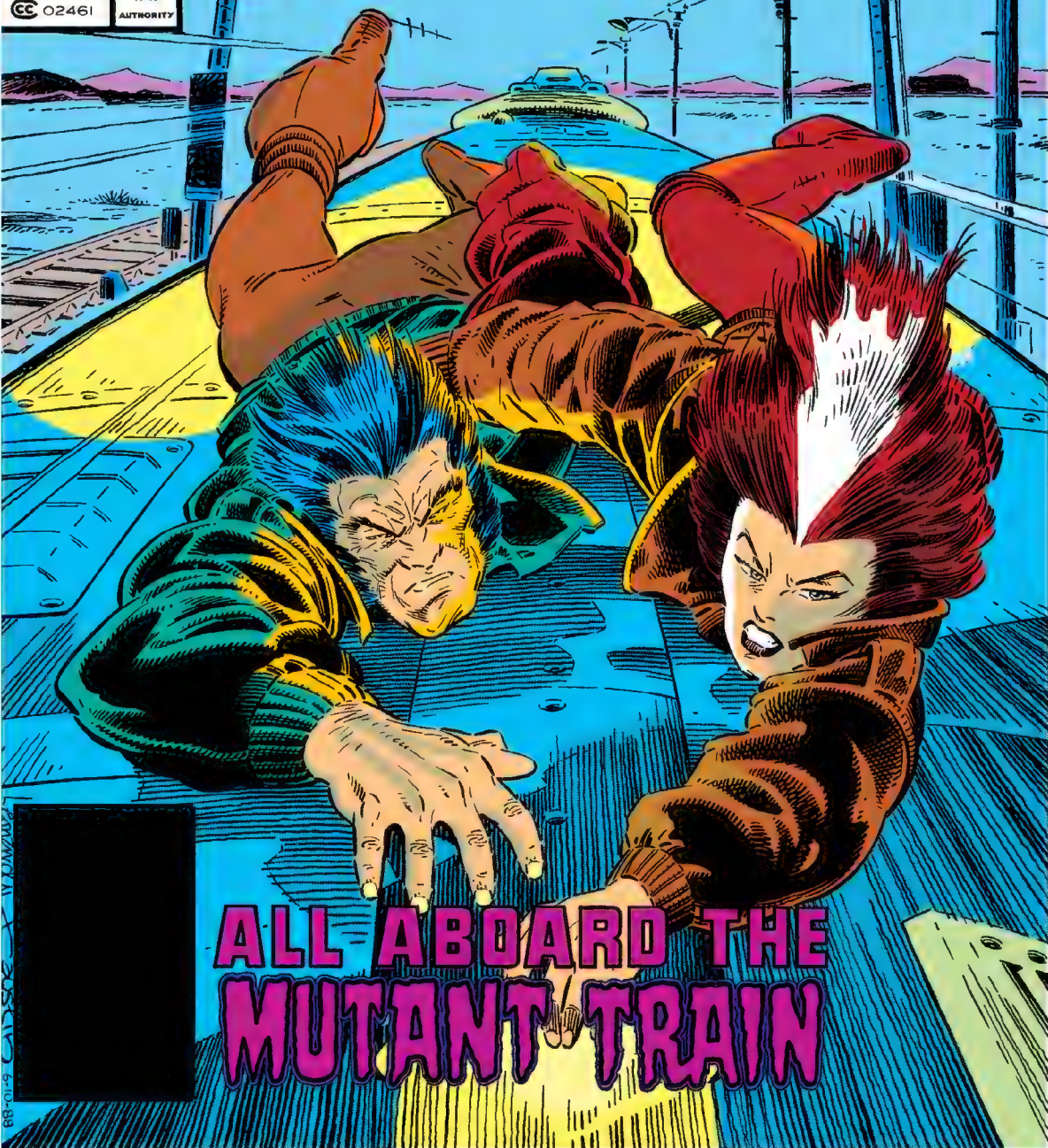
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



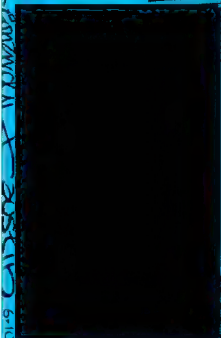
AUTHORITY

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN®



ALL ABOARD THE
MUTANT TRAIN



STAN LEE
PRESENTS

WHO'S HUMAN?

STARRING
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN

*The INDIAN OCEAN--
EAST OF AFRICA,
JUST NORTH OF THE
SEYCHELLES ISLANDS...*

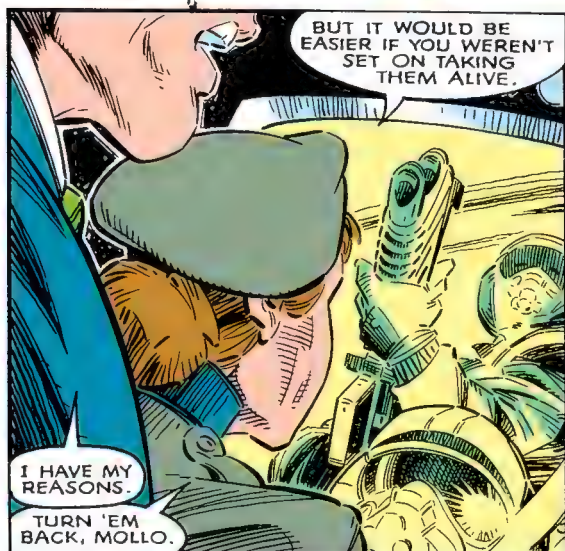
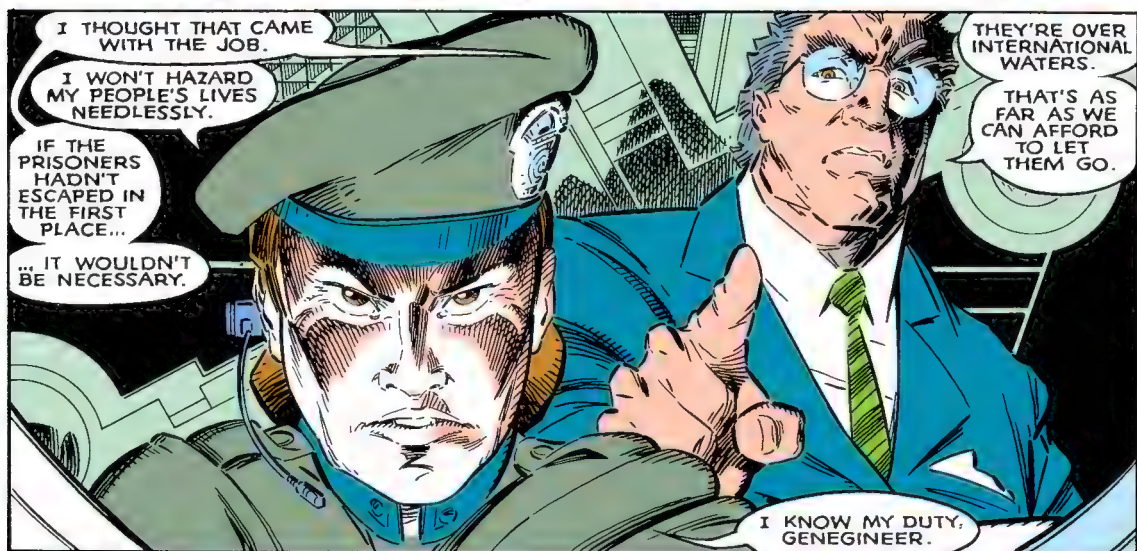
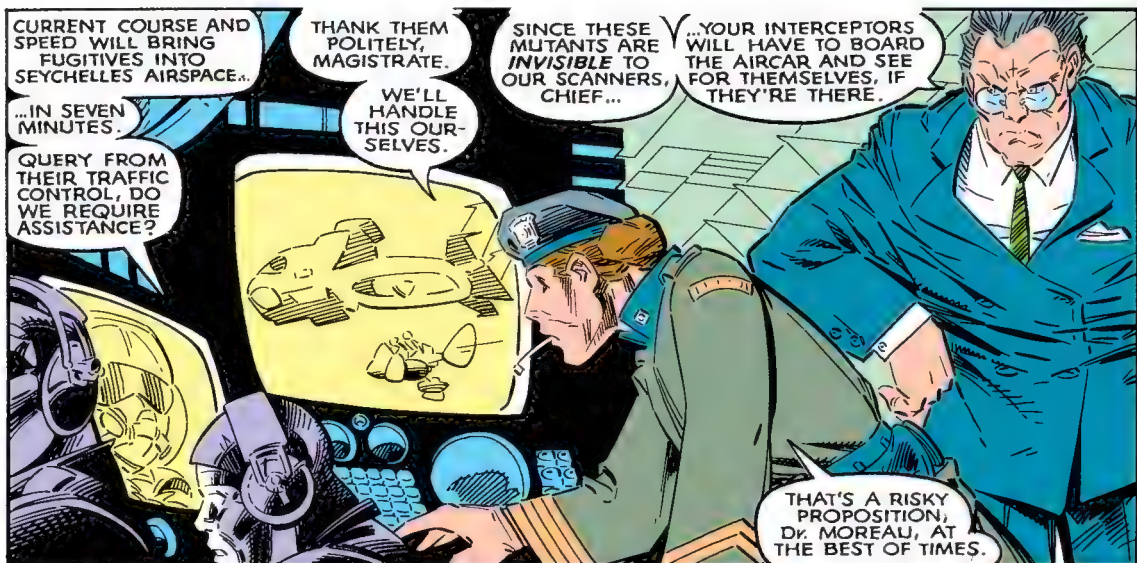
MAGISTRATE
COMMAND
FROM
AIR-ONE--

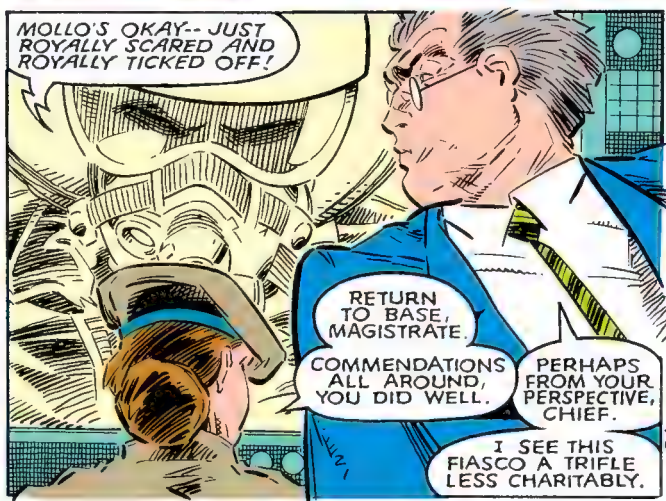
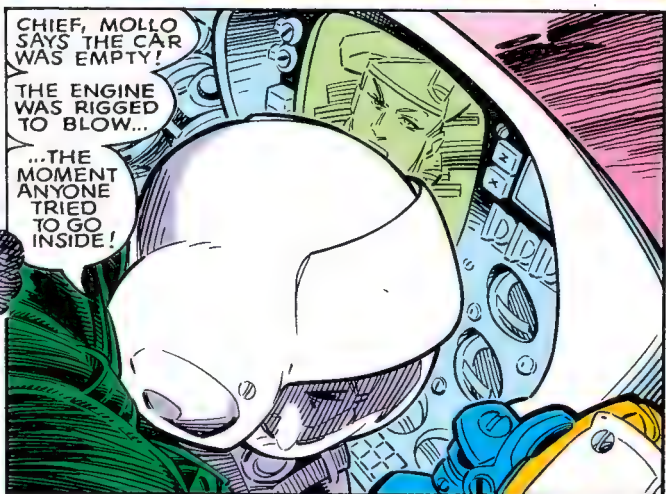
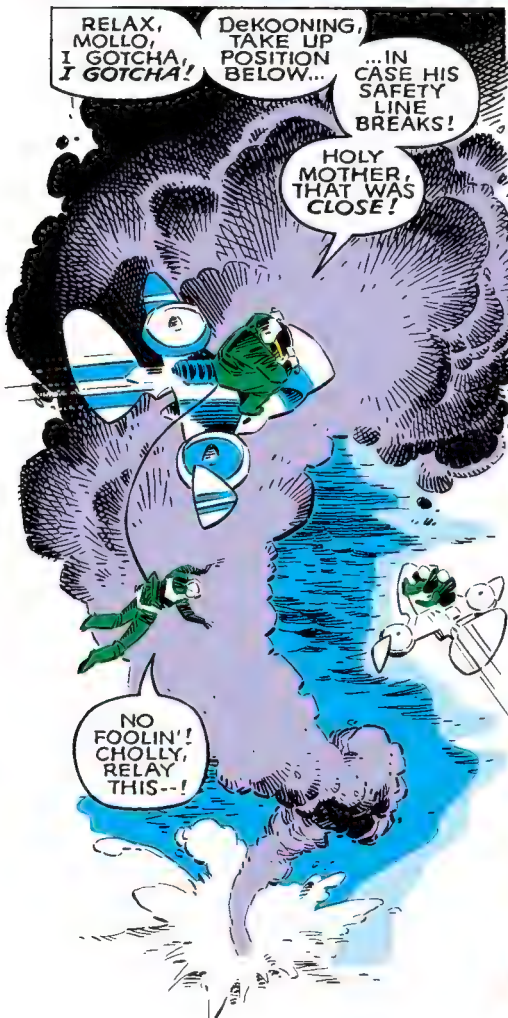
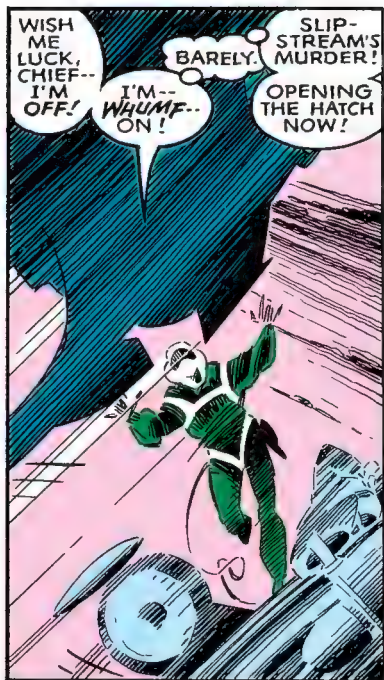
-- FLUGTIVES
REFUSE TO
ANSWER
OUR HAILS...

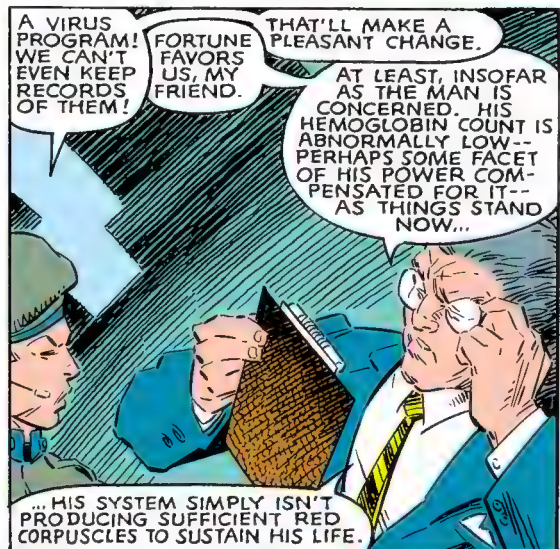
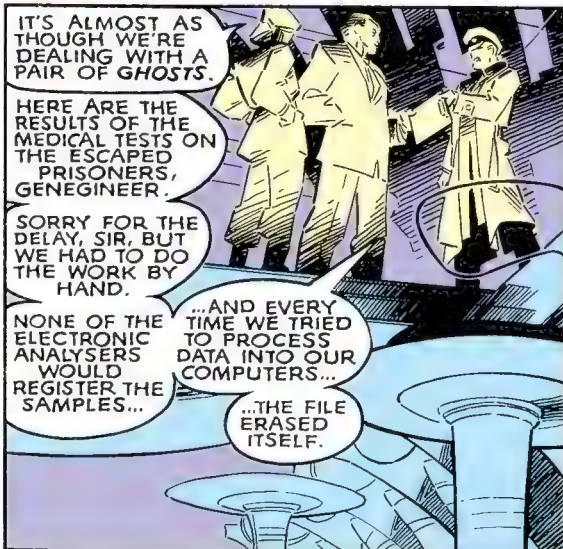
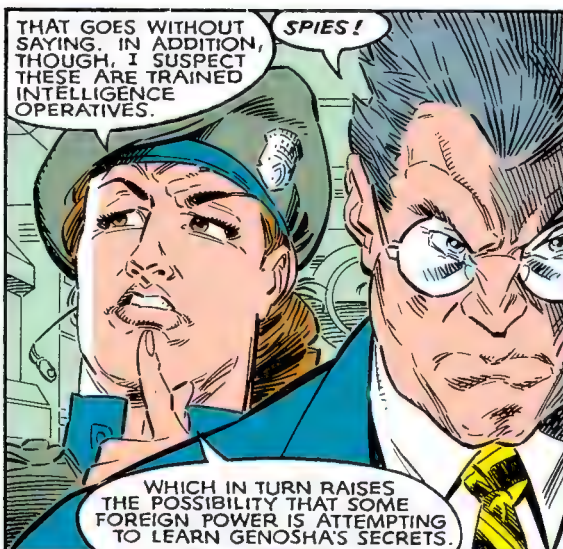
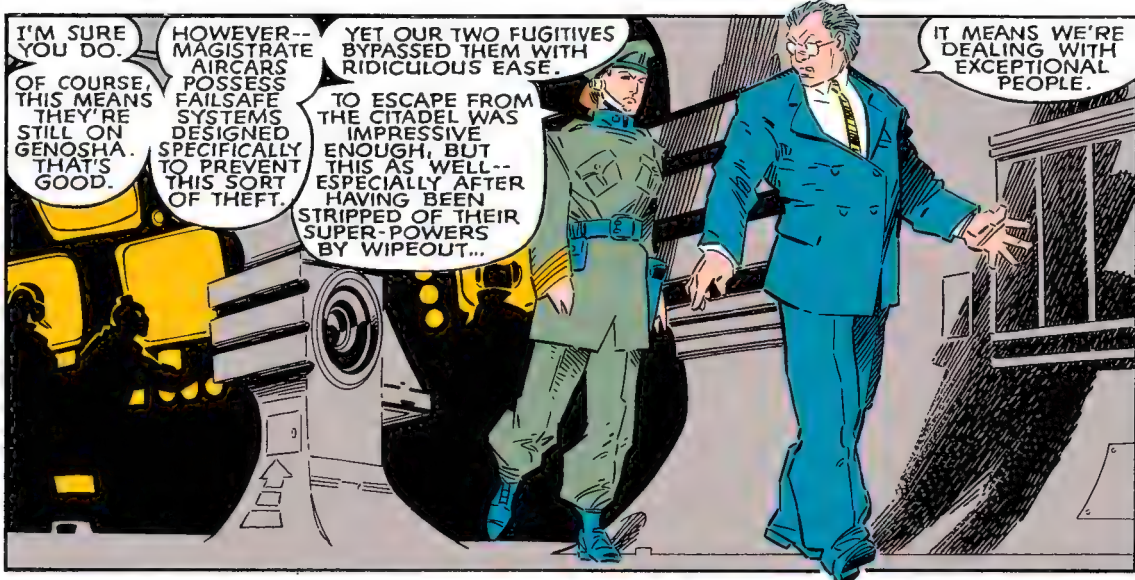
... AND
ACCORDING
TO OUR
SENSORS...

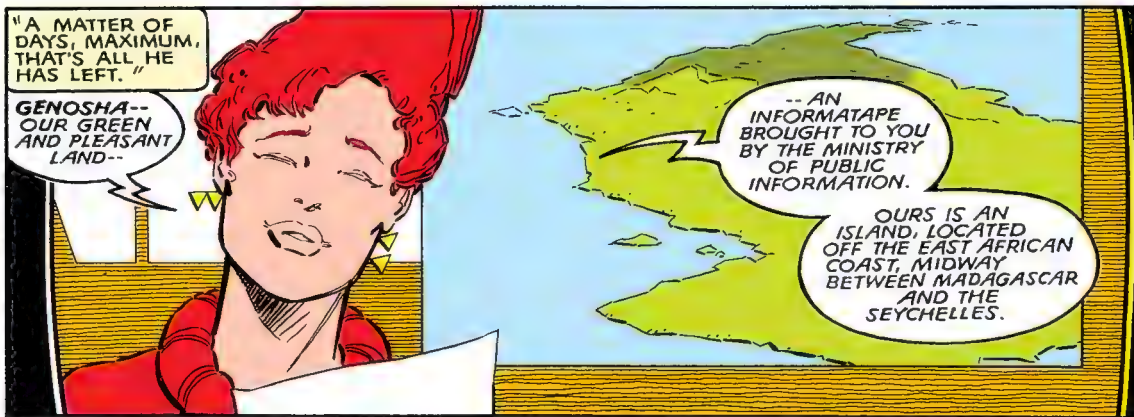
...THEIR
VEHICLE IS
EMPTY!

CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
RICK LEONARDI, PENCILER
TERRY AUSTIN, INKER
TOM ORZECOWSKI, LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST
BOB HARRAS, EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF









"A MATTER OF DAYS, MAXIMUM, THAT'S ALL HE HAS LEFT."

GENOSHA--
OUR GREEN
AND PLEASANT
LAND--

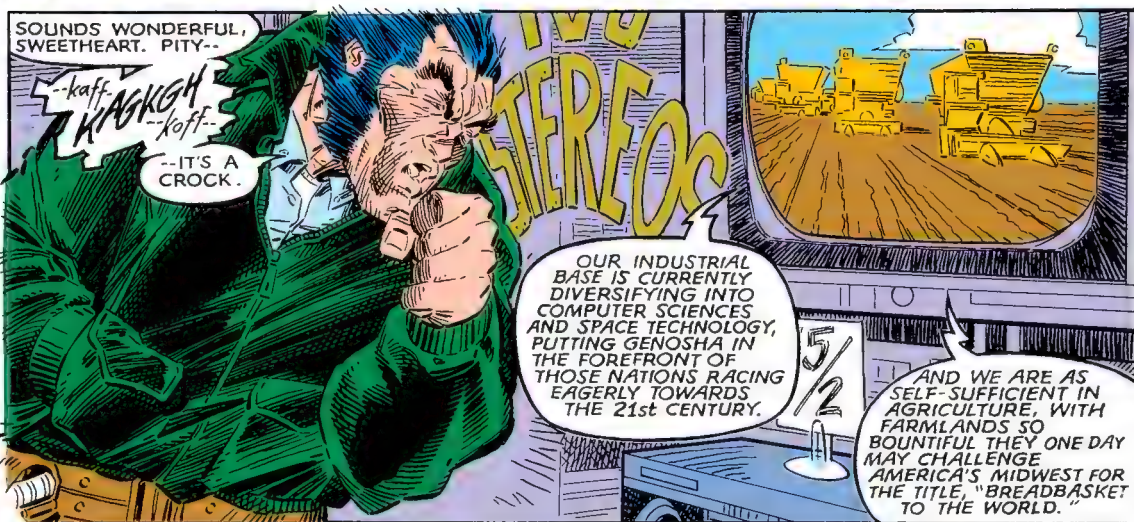
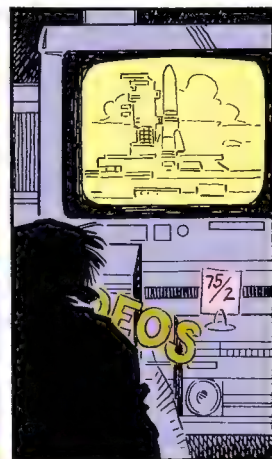
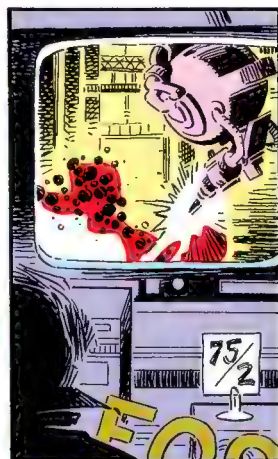
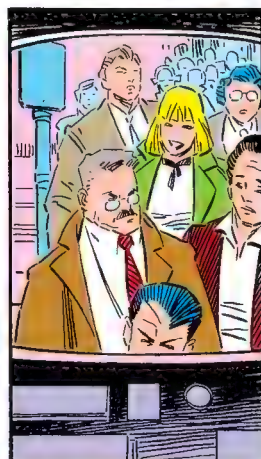
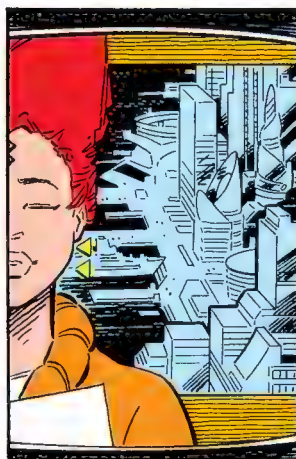
-- AN
INFORMATAPE
BROUGHT TO YOU
BY THE MINISTRY
OF PUBLIC
INFORMATION.

OURS IS AN
ISLAND, LOCATED
OFF THE EAST AFRICAN
COAST, MIDWAY
BETWEEN MADAGASCAR
AND THE
SEYCHELLES.

"USED ORIGINALLY-- AND FOR CENTURIES-- AS A HAVEN FOR INDIAN OCEAN CORSAIRS (AND RUMORED TO BE THE DESTINATION OF ONE OF SINBAD THE SAILOR'S LEGENDARY VOYAGES), IT WAS SETTLED DURING THE GREAT AGES OF EXPLORATION.

"THE SUPERB NATURAL ANCHORAGE AT HAMMER BAY FORMED THE FOUNDATION OF OUR COMMERCE, AND TRADE WAS OUR INITIAL SOURCE OF WEALTH-- UNTIL THE DISCOVERY OF IRON ORE AND OTHER PRECIOUS METALS IN THE RIDGEBACK MOUNTAINS, IRON WHICH IS PROCESSED INTO THE FINEST STEEL AVAILABLE ON EARTH, WITH AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM OF POLLUTION AND AT A COST THAT CANNOT BE BEAT.

"OVER THE YEARS, GENOSHA HAS BUILT AN ECONOMY AND SOCIETY THAT IS THE ENVY OF THE WORLD. THERE IS NO POVERTY HERE, NO HARDSHIP, WITH UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT. OURS IS A FREE LAND, WHERE PEOPLE ARE JUDGED BY DEEDS AND CHARACTER, NOT THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN."

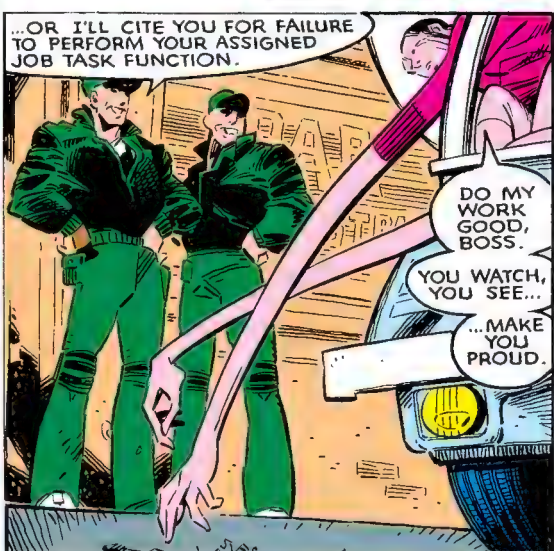
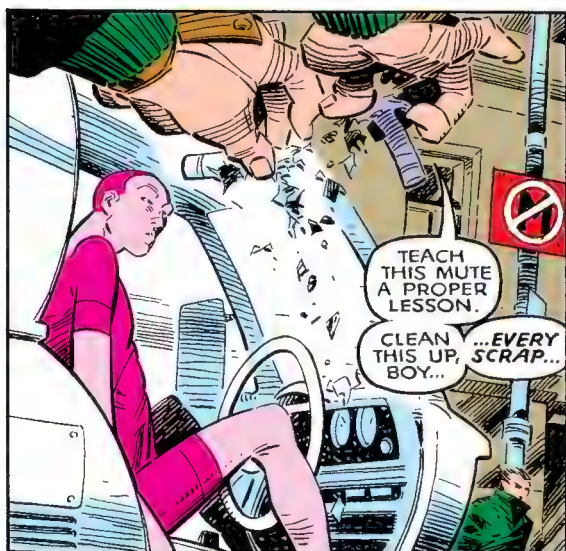
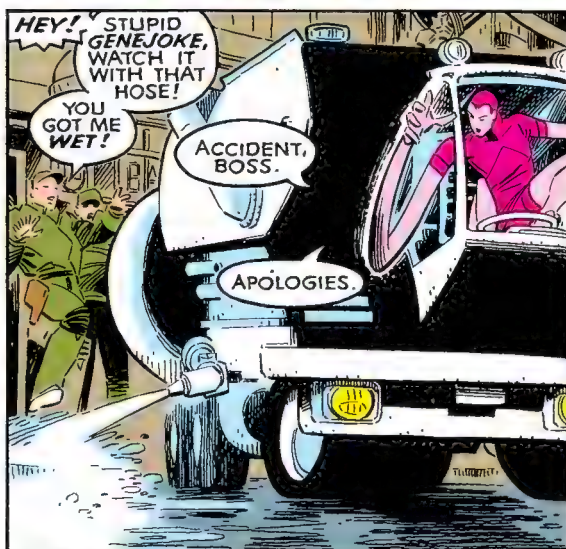
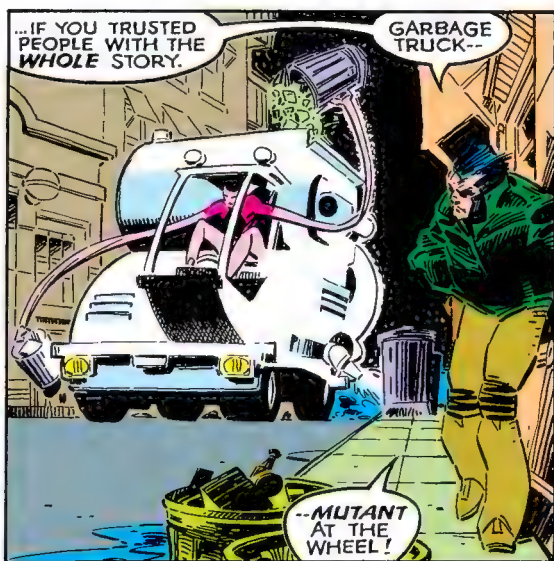
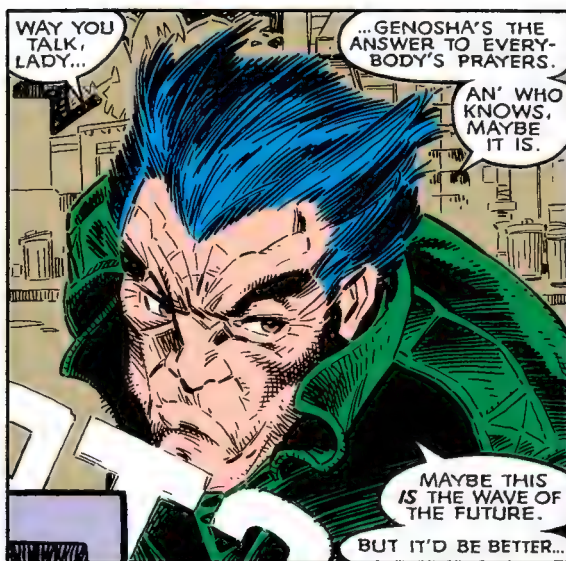


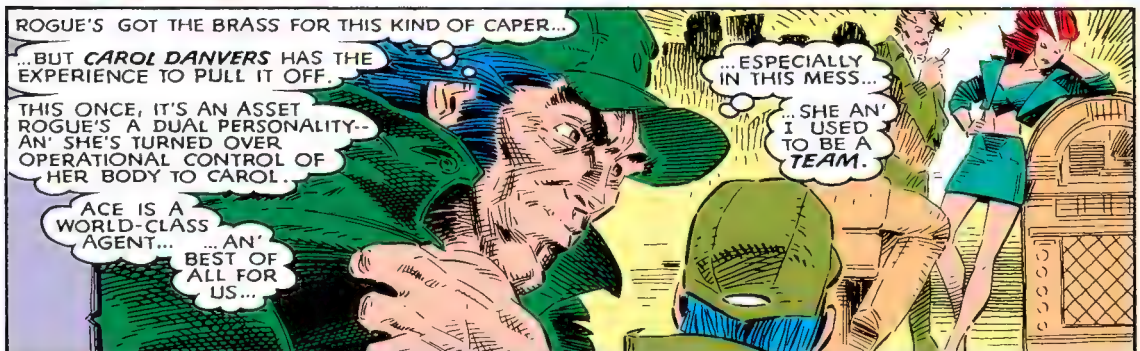
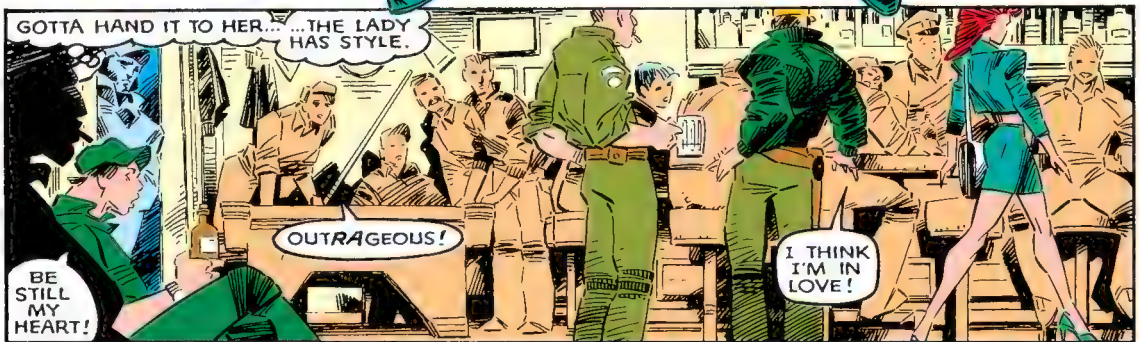
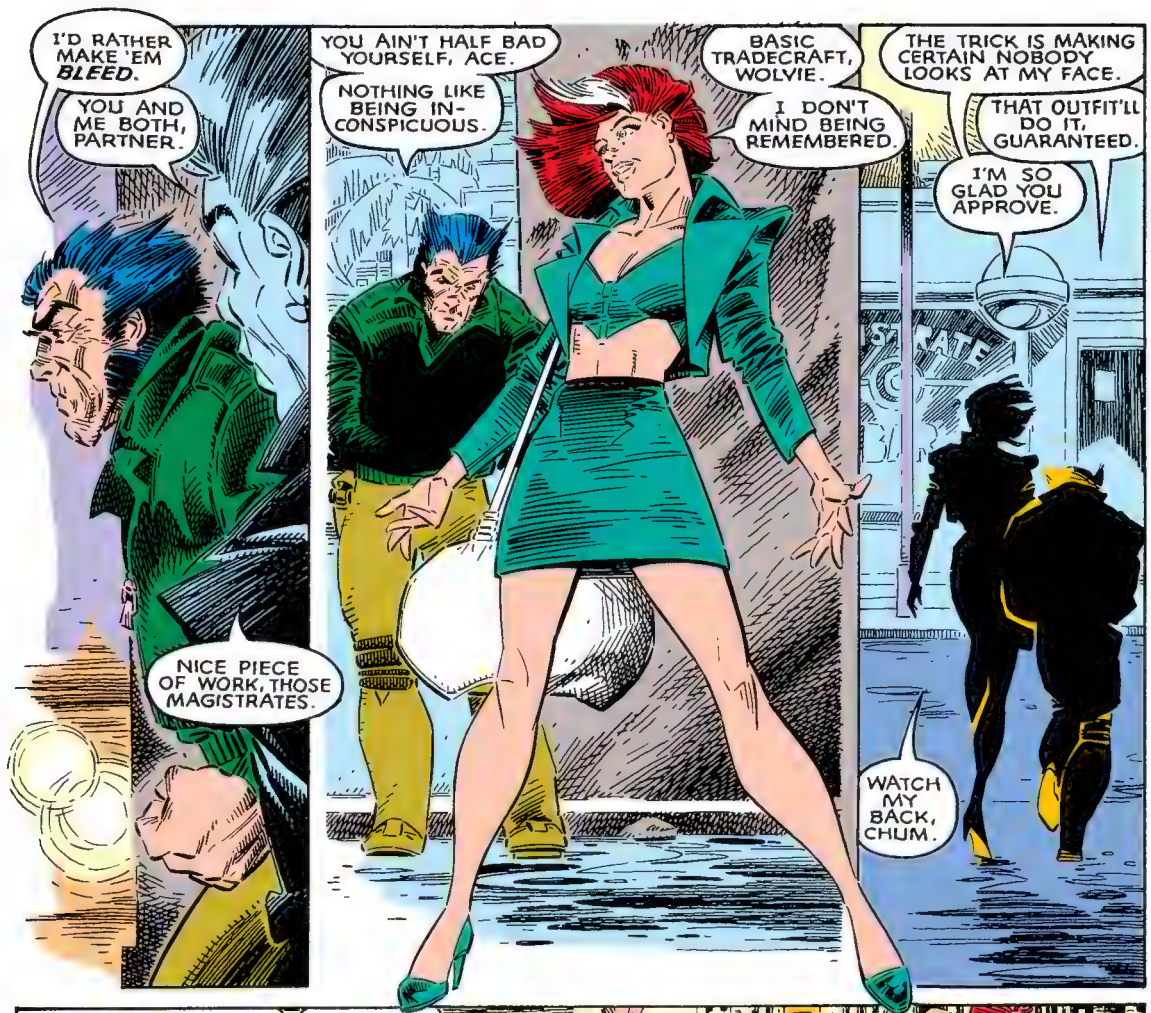
SOUNDS WONDERFUL, SWEETHEART. PITY--

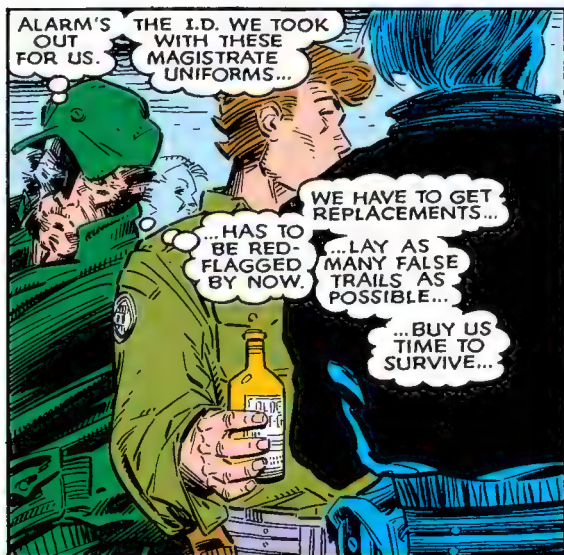
--kaff KAGKOH--
--IT'S A CROCK.

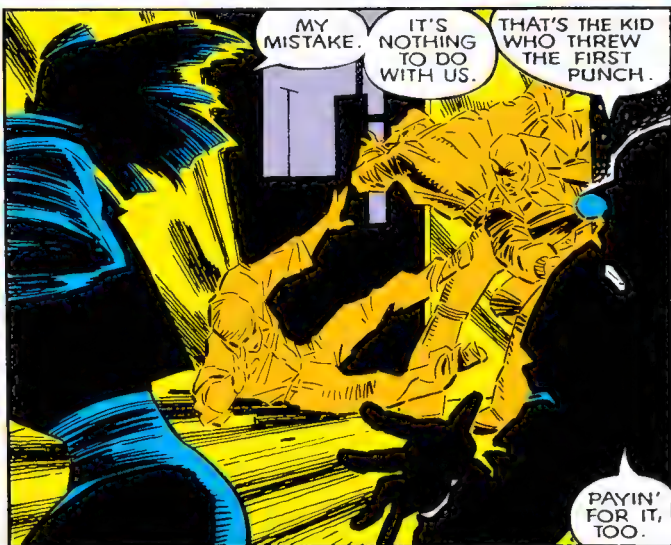
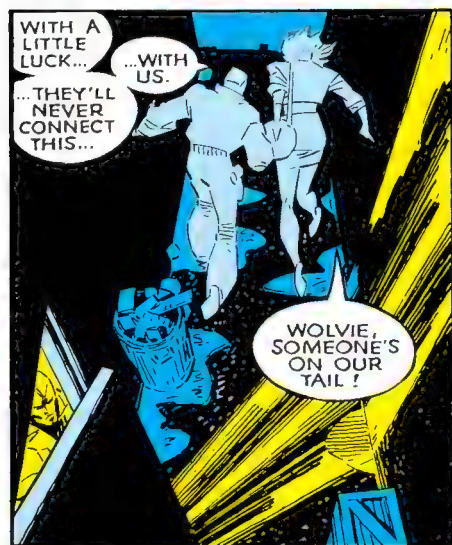
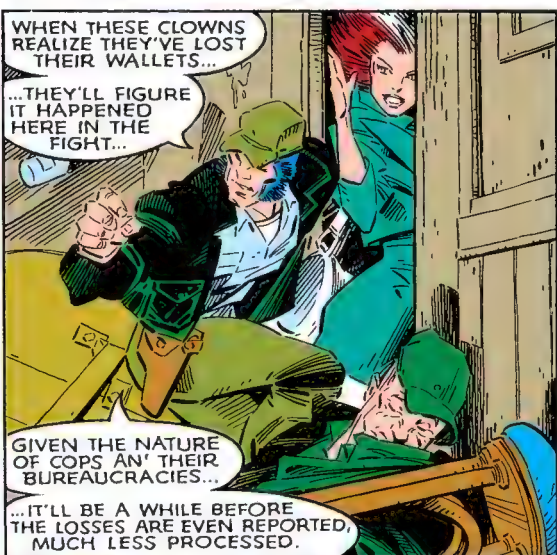
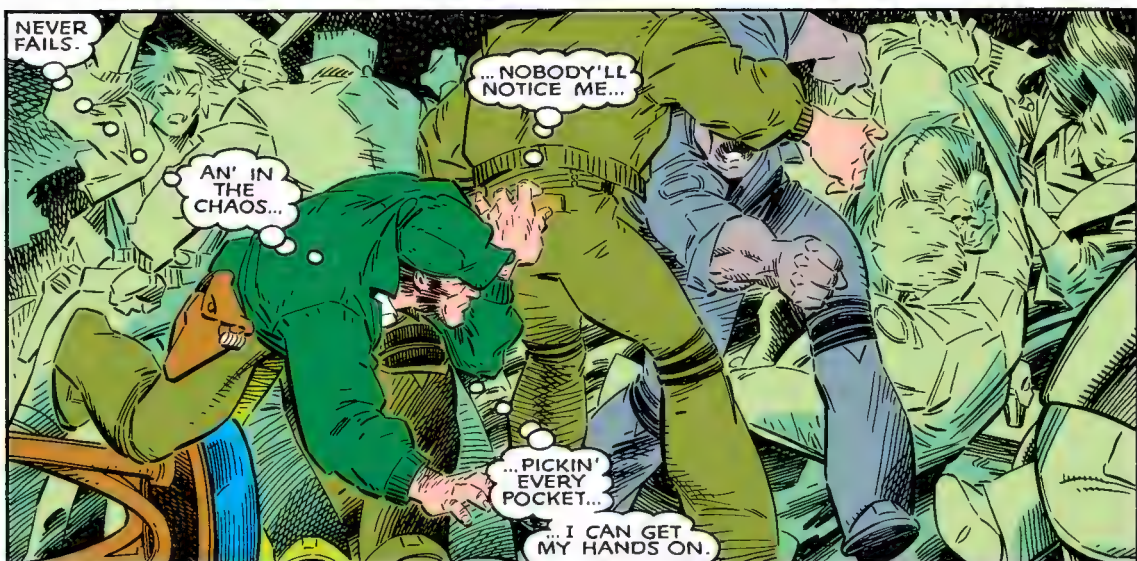
OUR INDUSTRIAL BASE IS CURRENTLY DIVERSIFYING INTO COMPUTER SCIENCES AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY, PUTTING GENOSHA IN THE FOREFRONT OF THOSE NATIONS RACING EAGERLY TOWARDS THE 21ST CENTURY.

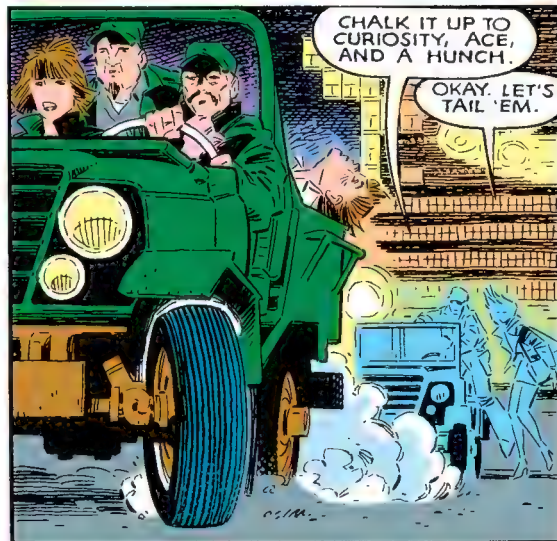
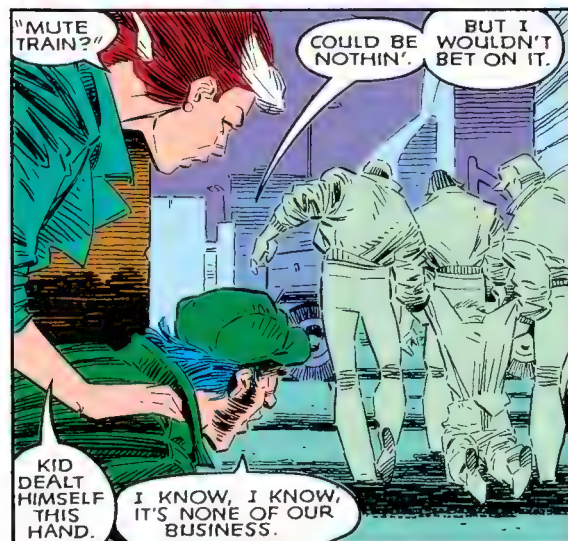
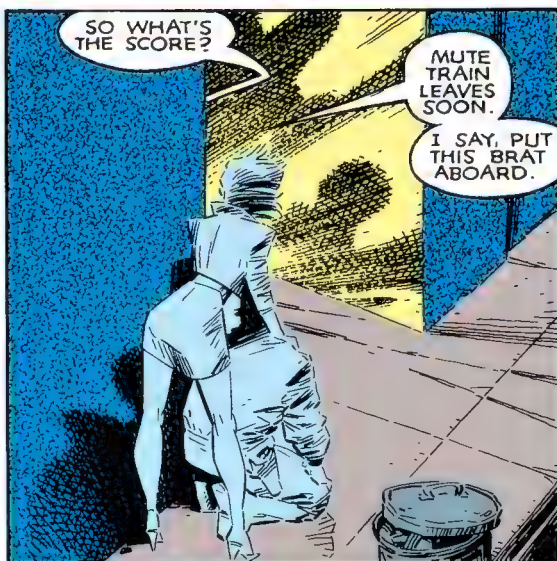
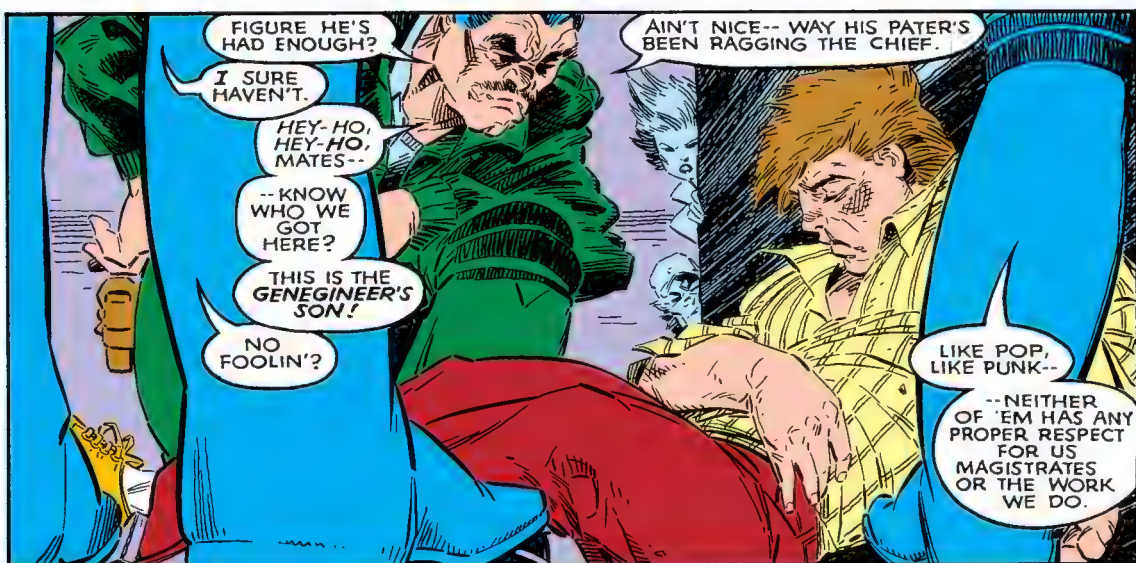
AND WE ARE AS SELF-SUFFICIENT IN AGRICULTURE, WITH FARMLANDS SO BOUNTIFUL THEY ONE DAY MAY CHALLENGE AMERICA'S MIDWEST FOR THE TITLE, "BREADBASKET TO THE WORLD."

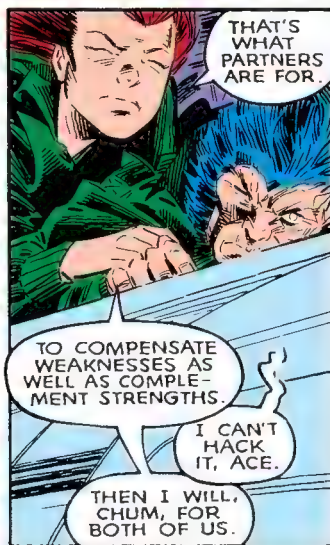
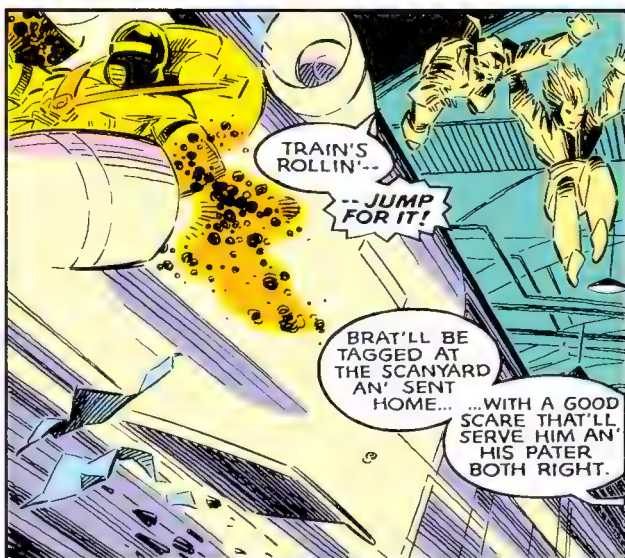
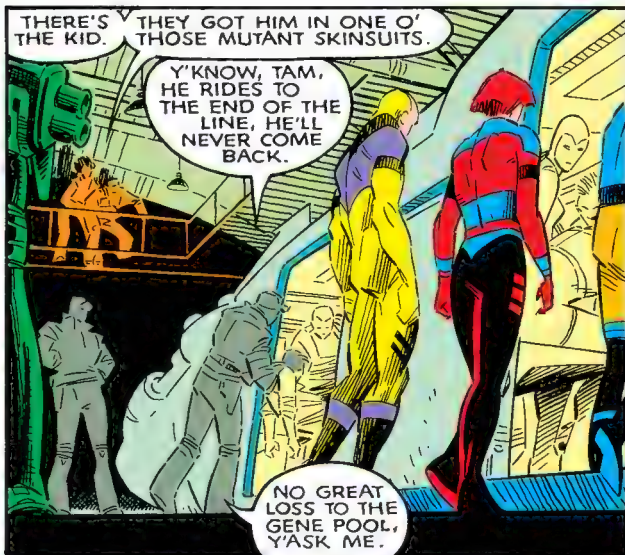


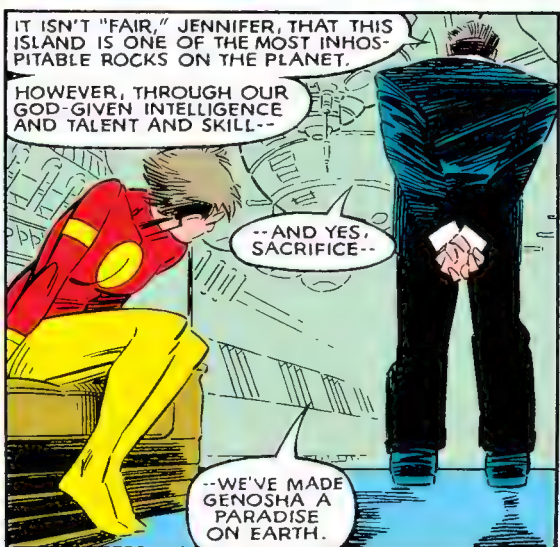
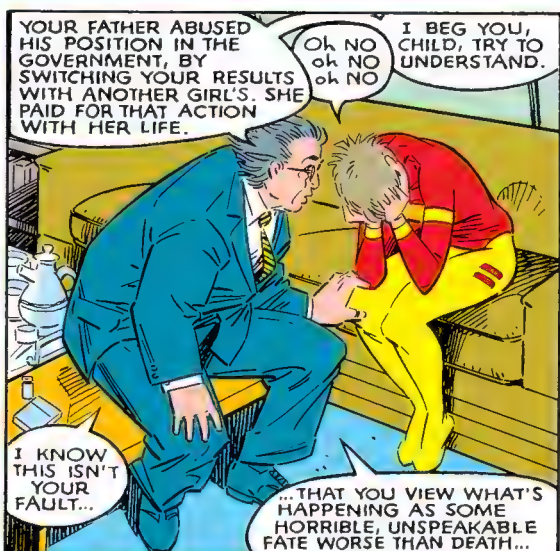
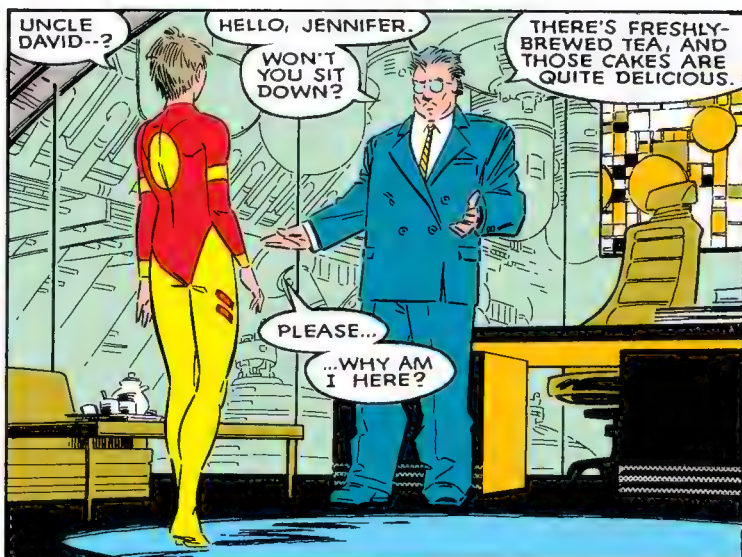


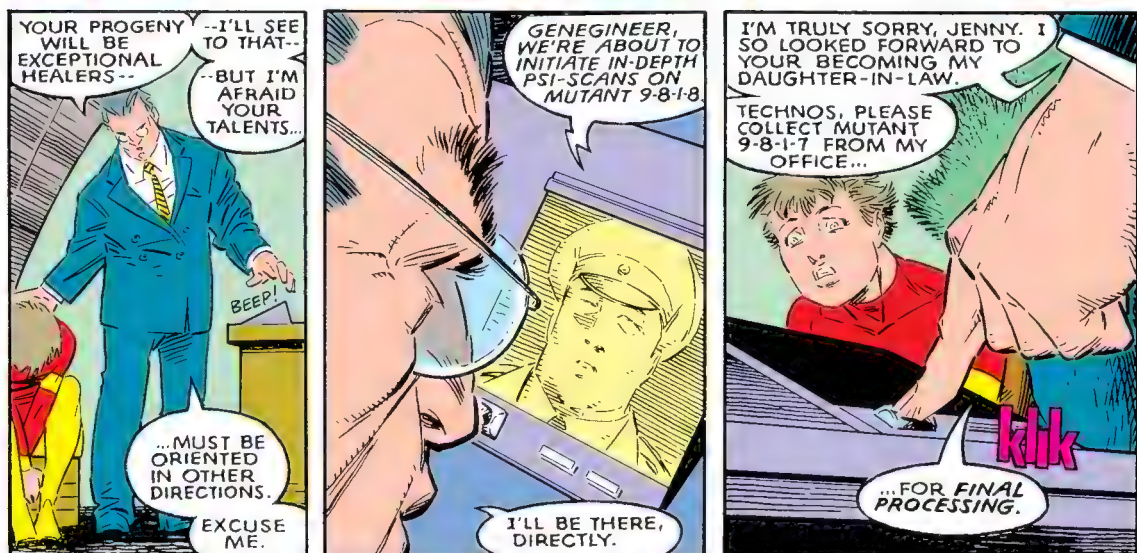
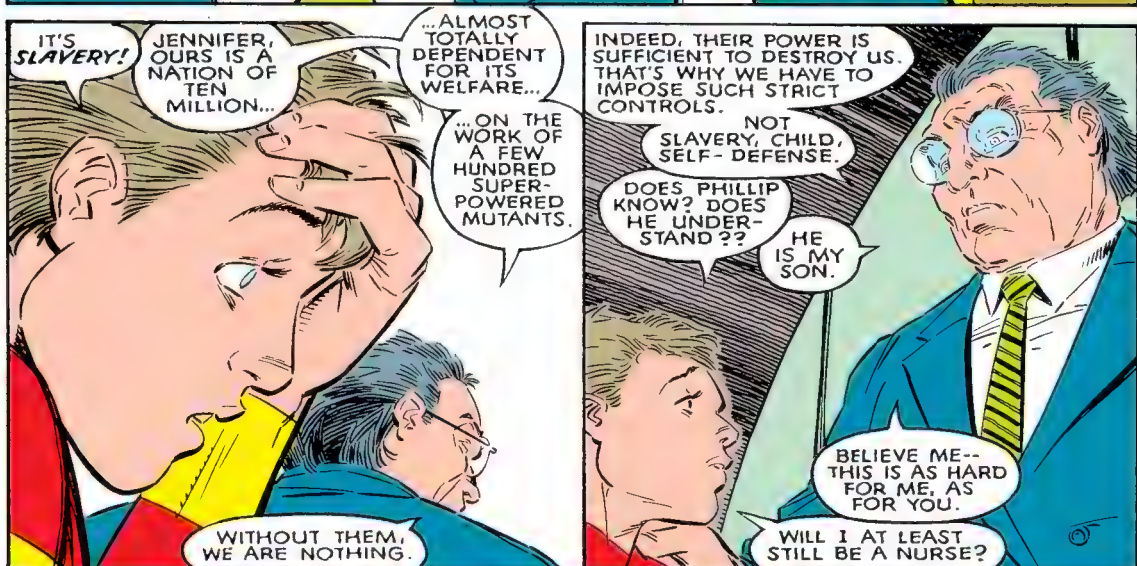
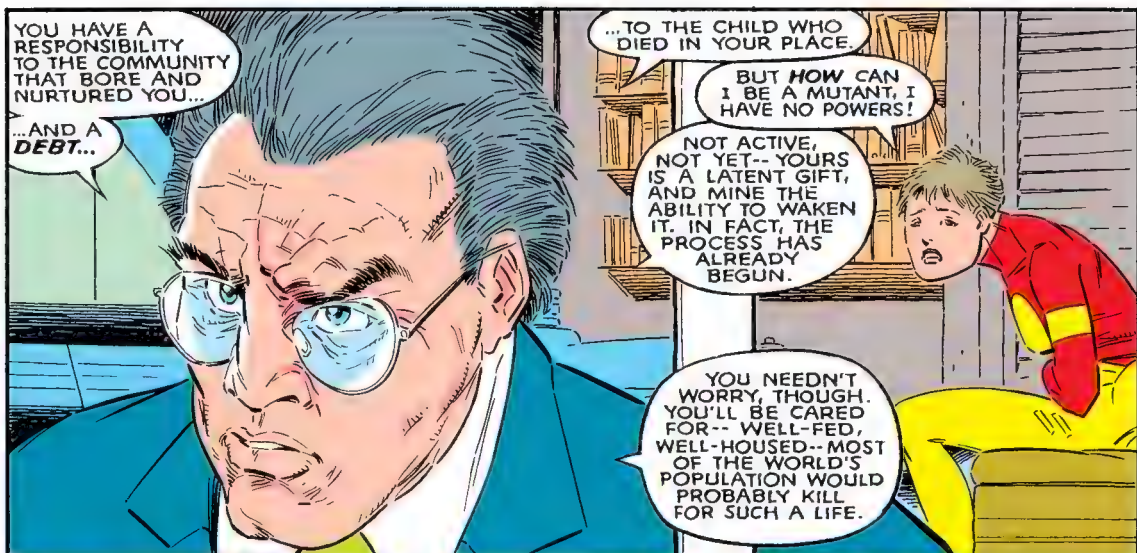


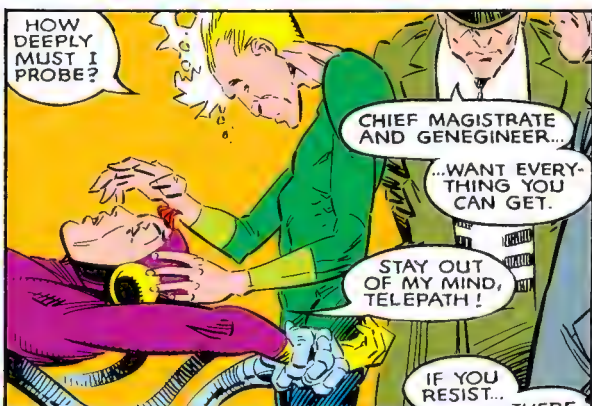
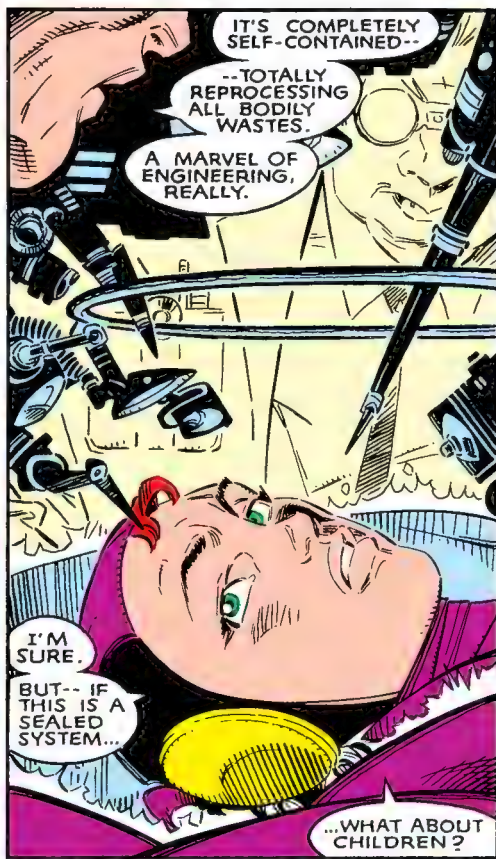


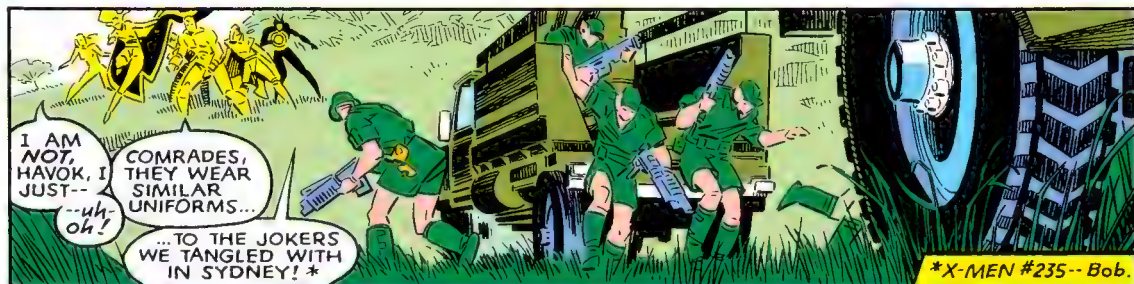
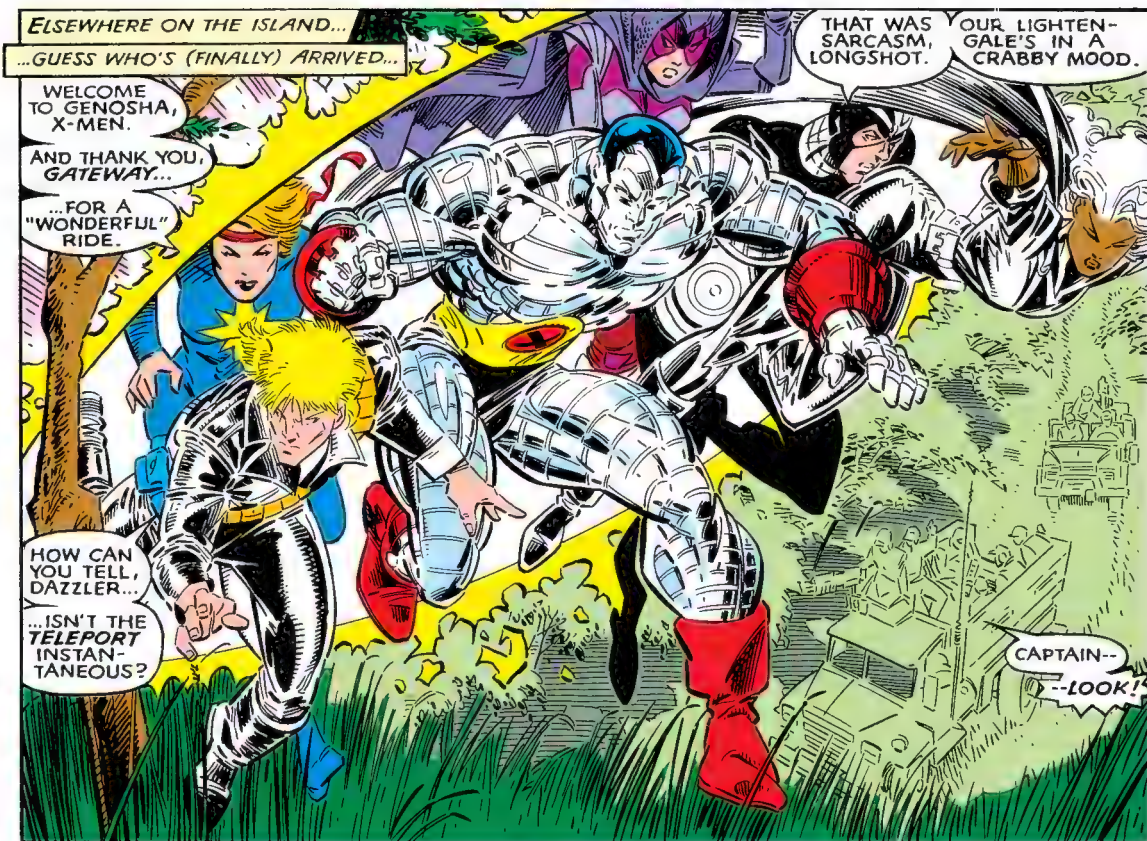


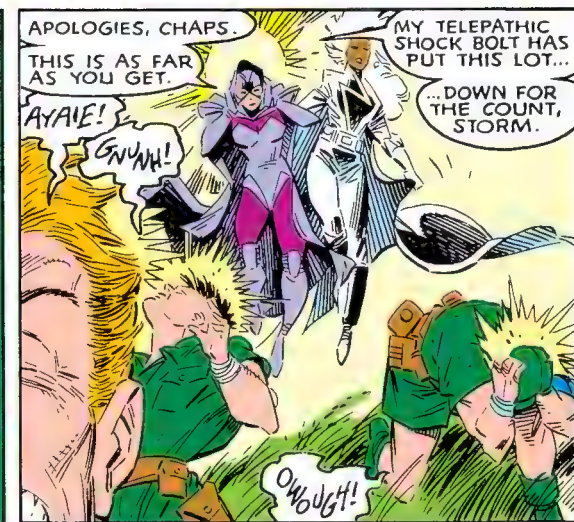
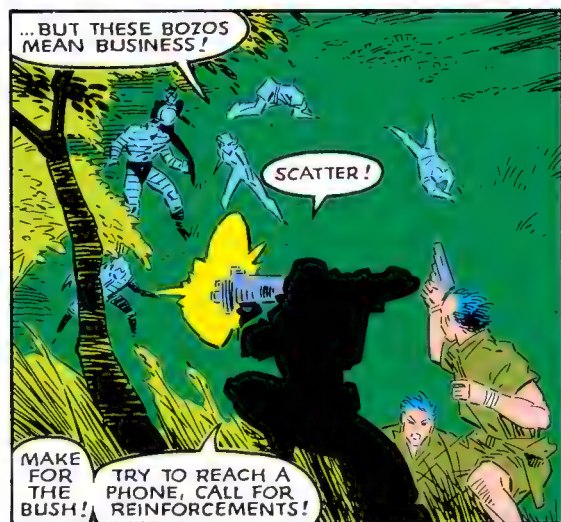
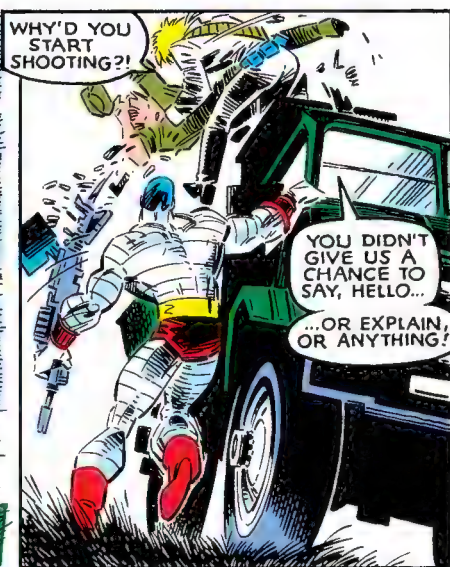
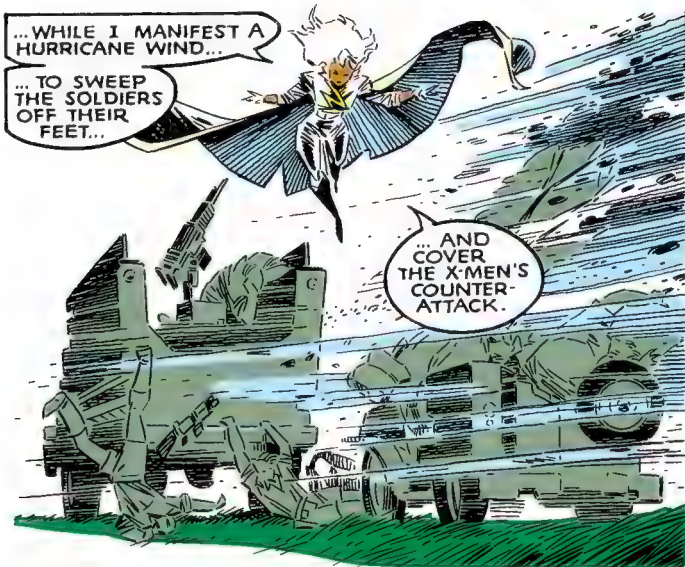


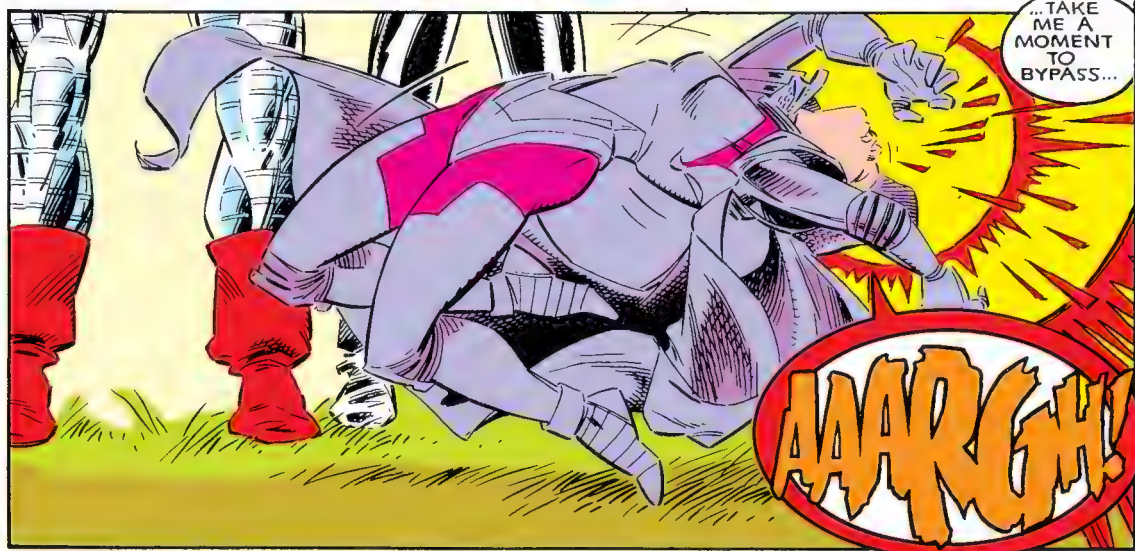
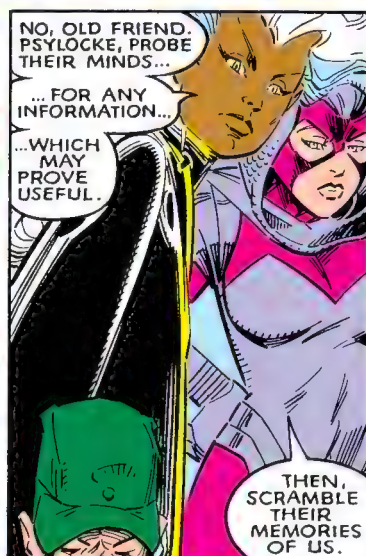
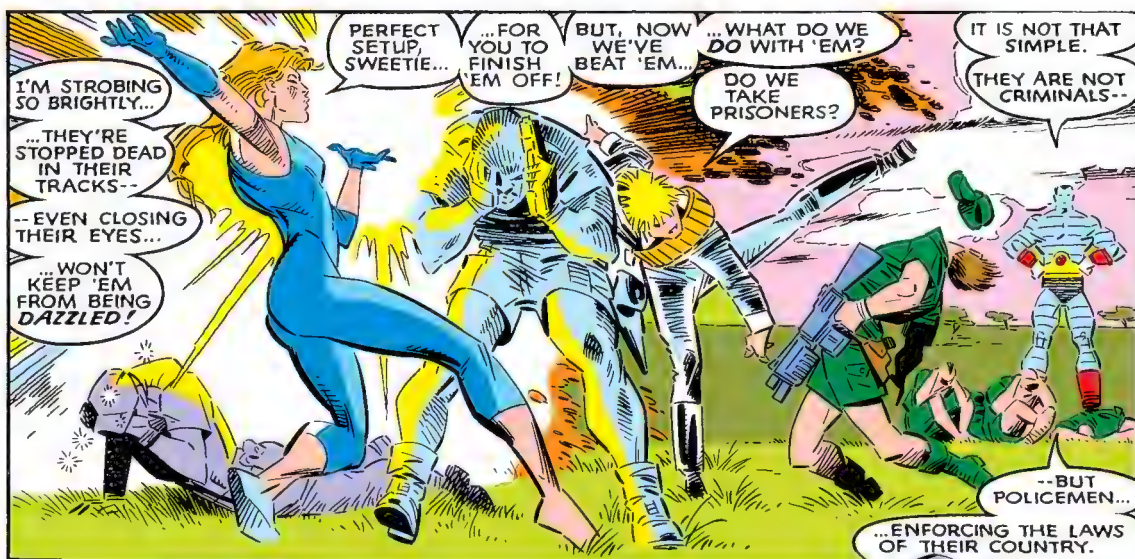


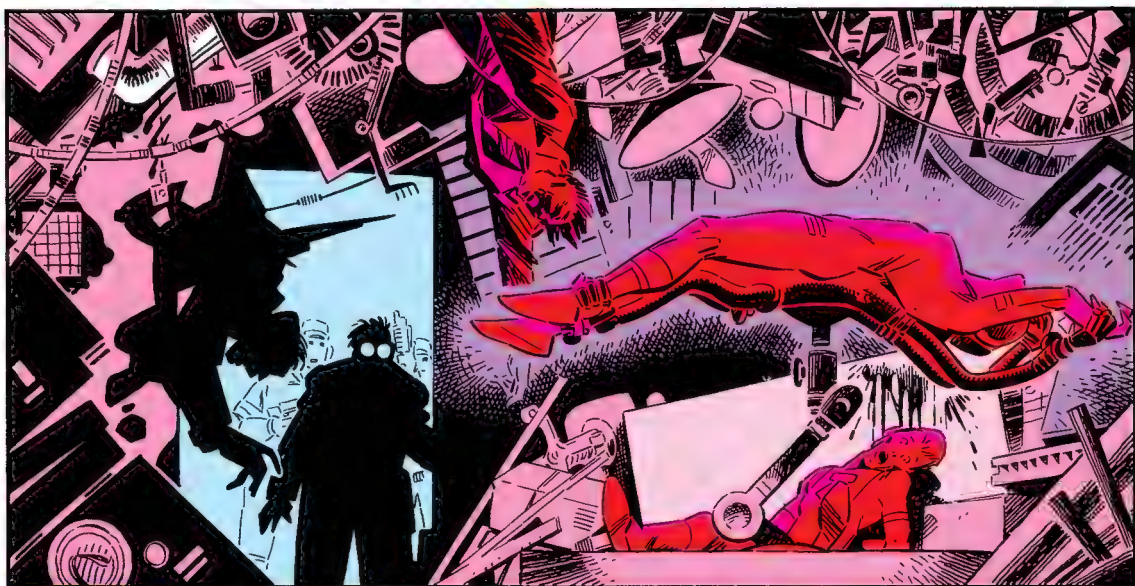
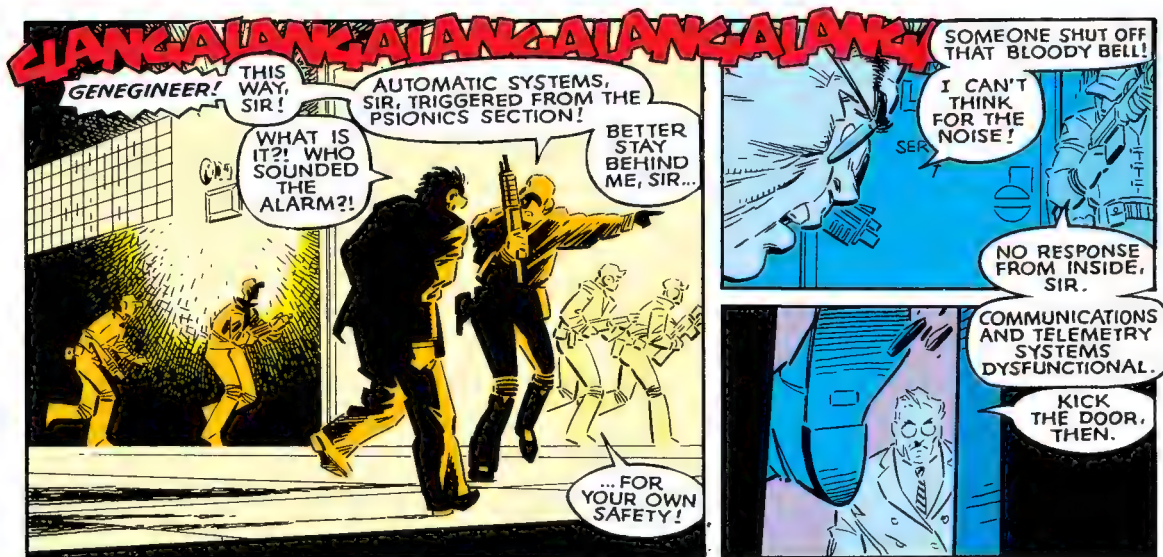




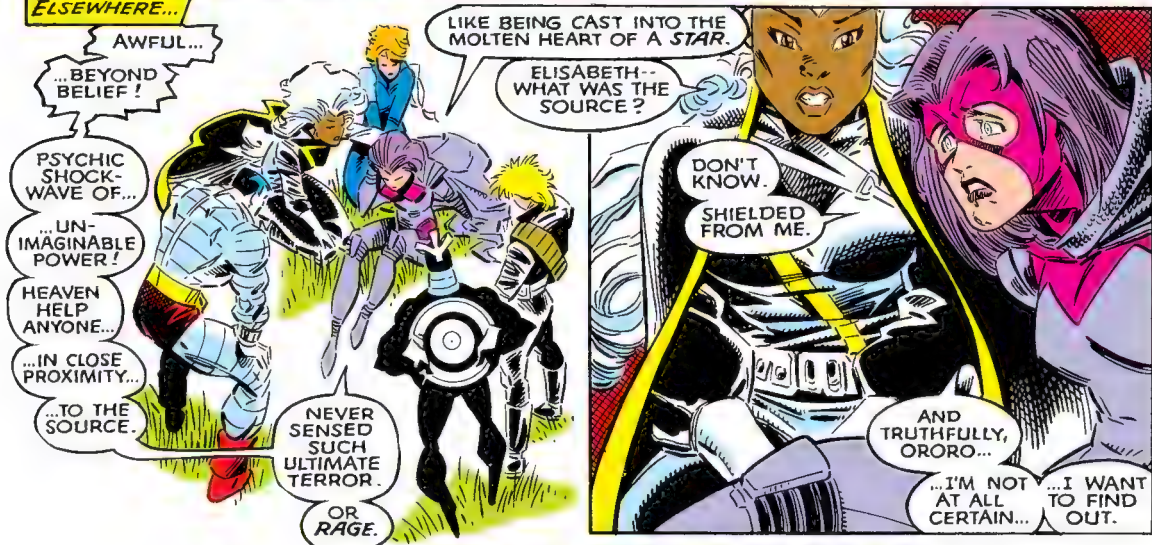








ELSEWHERE...



THE
"MUTE
TRAIN"...

...ENTERING THE FOOTHILLS OF
THE RIDGEBACK RANGE...

...THE MOUNTAINS THAT FORM
A WALL ACROSS THE WIDTH
OF THE ISLAND.

THAT
MUTANT
DRIVER'S
GENERATING
SOME
SERIOUS
SPEED.

WITHOUT OUR POWERS,
WE HAVEN'T A PRAYER OF
SURVIVING IF WE JUMP.

I'M AFRAID,
PARTNER,
WE'RE
ABOARD
FOR THE
DURATION.

CALCULATED
RISK, ACE,
WE KNEW
THAT FROM
THE START.

WE'LL JUST HAVE
TO KEEP PUSHIN'
OUR LUCK FOR
ALL IT'S
WORTH...

...AN' HOPE THE
CLOWNS AT THE
END OF THE LINE
ACCEPT US AT
FACE VALUE.

MEANTIME,
LET'S GET
INSIDE.

SNKT

LOGAN, YOUR
HAND--YOU'RE
BLEEDING!

NO POWER,
NO HEALIN'
FACTOR.

NORMALLY
SEALS THE
WOUND...
...OPENED
BY THE
CLAWS...
...SOON
AS IT'S
MADE.

THANKS FOR THE BANDAGE.

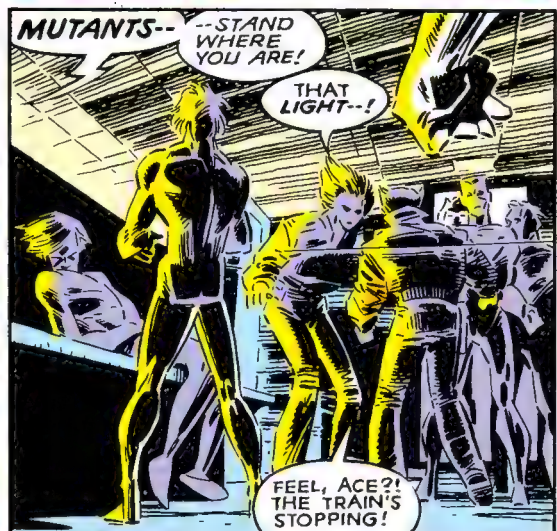
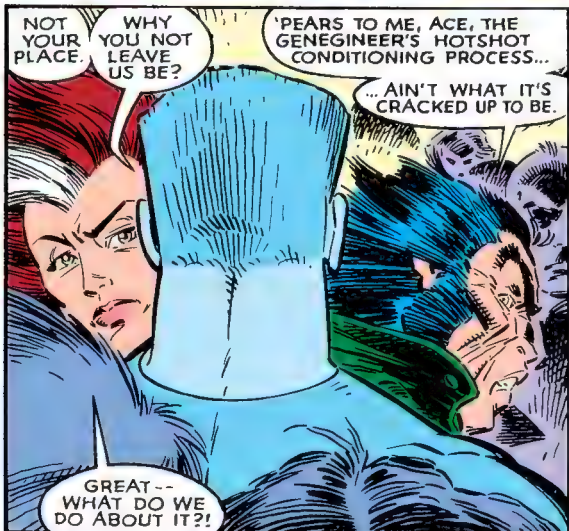
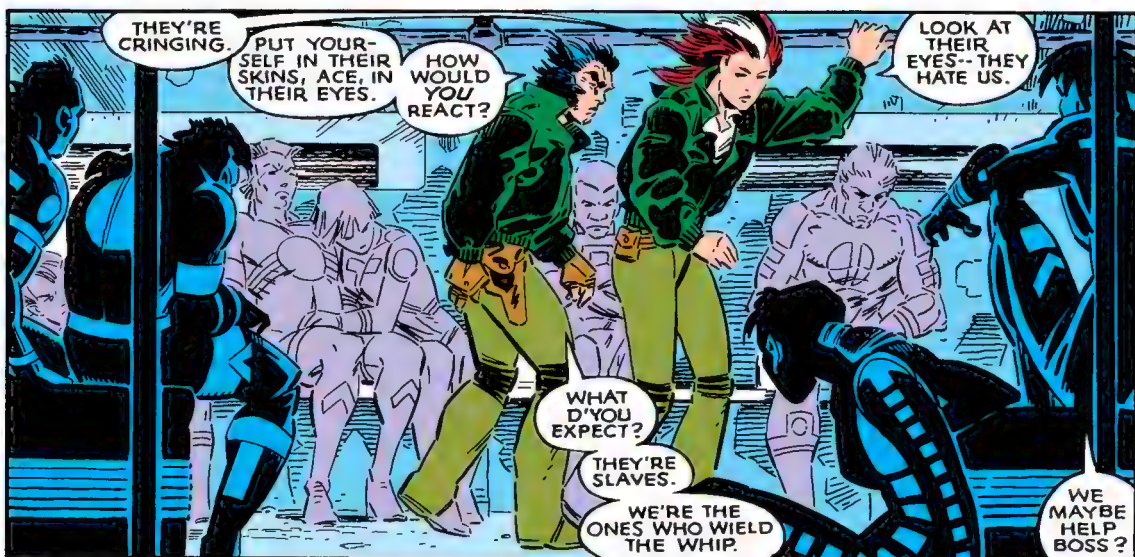
YOU'VE DONE AS
MUCH-- AND
MORE-- FOR ME.

WE'RE RUNNING
OUT OF TIME.

HE'S
VISIBLY
WEAKENING
BY THE
HOUR.

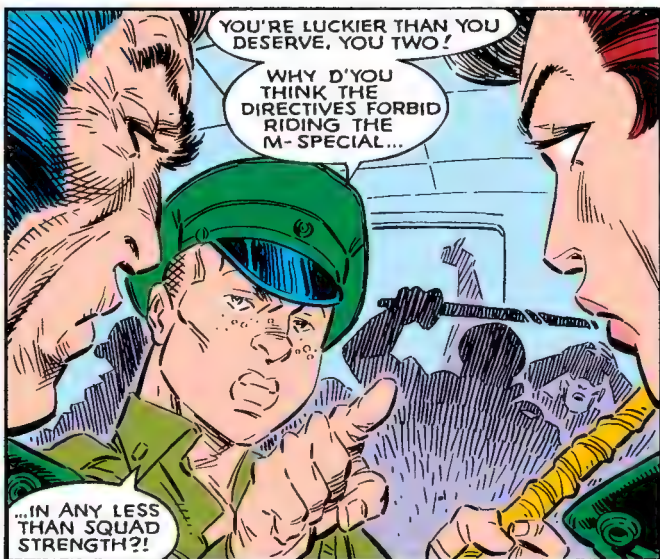
IF WOLVIE'S
POWERS
AREN'T
RESTORED--

--HE'LL
DIE!

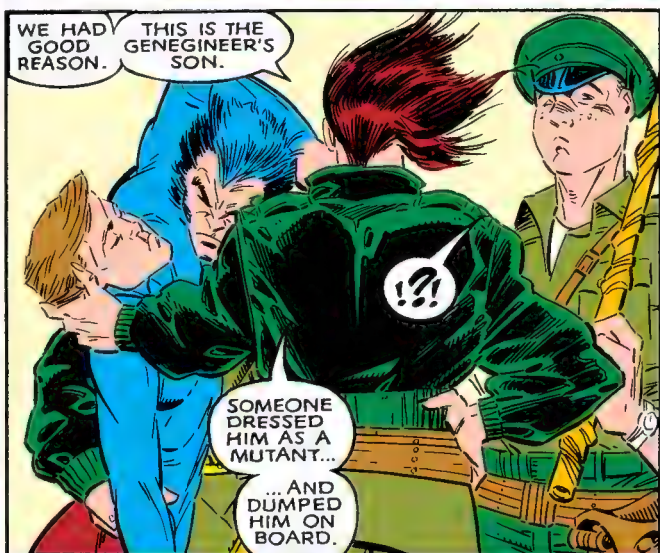




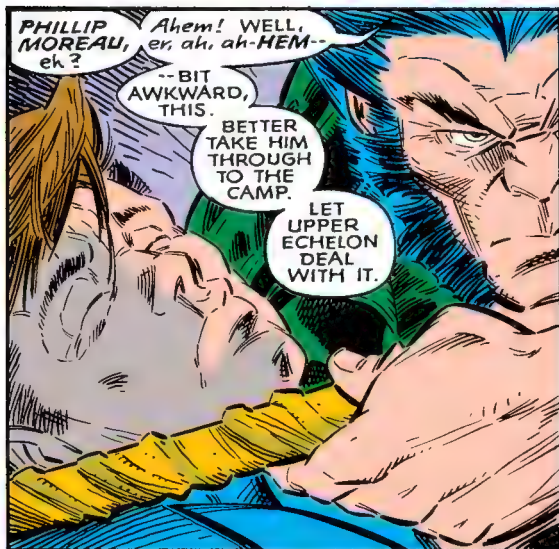
STEP ASIDE, GENEJOKES--
--QUICKLY NOW!
YOU DARE THREATEN A MAGISTRATE?!
BOSS, NO!
BE COOL, GUYS!
EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL, LET US EXPLAIN--!
OUTSIDE, MUTES-- THE LOT OF YOU-- MOVE!



YOU'RE LUCKIER THAN YOU DESERVE, YOU TWO!
WHY D'YOU THINK THE DIRECTIVES FORBID RIDING THE M-SPECIAL...
...IN ANY LESS THAN SQUAD STRENGTH?!



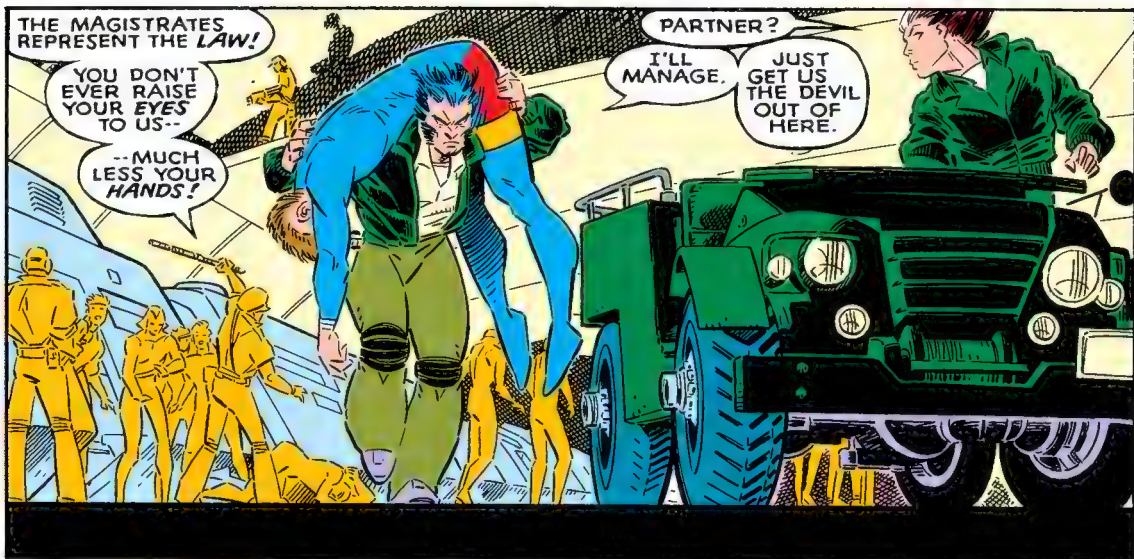
WE HAD GOOD REASON. THIS IS THE GENEGINEER'S SON.
SOMEONE DRESSED HIM AS A MUTANT...
...AND DUMPED HIM ON BOARD.



PHILLIP MOREAU, eh? Ahem! Well, er, ah, ah-HEM--
--BIT AWKWARD, THIS.
BETTER TAKE HIM THROUGH TO THE CAMP.
LET UPPER ECHELON DEAL WITH IT.



WHY NOT SIMPLY SEND THE BOY HOME?
NORMALLY, AN INTRUDER GETS THIS FAR...
...THIS IS HOME
BUT IF HE REALLY IS WHO YOU SAY...
...THERE'LL BE THE DEVIL TO PAY...
...AND I WANT NO PART OF IT.



MARVEL

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN



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A STAN LEE
PRESENTATION

STARRING
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN

GONNA BE A REVOLUTION

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"I THOUGHT WE COULDN'T SCAN
THE WOMAN'S THOUGHTS?"

"WE CAN'T. THIS IS A PSYCHIC
TRANSCRIPT FROM THE MIND OF
THE EXAMINING TELEPATH."

"EVIDENTLY, THIS IS
HOW THE WOMAN
PERCEIVES HERSELF."

"WHAT'S THAT SONG
SHE'S SINGING?"

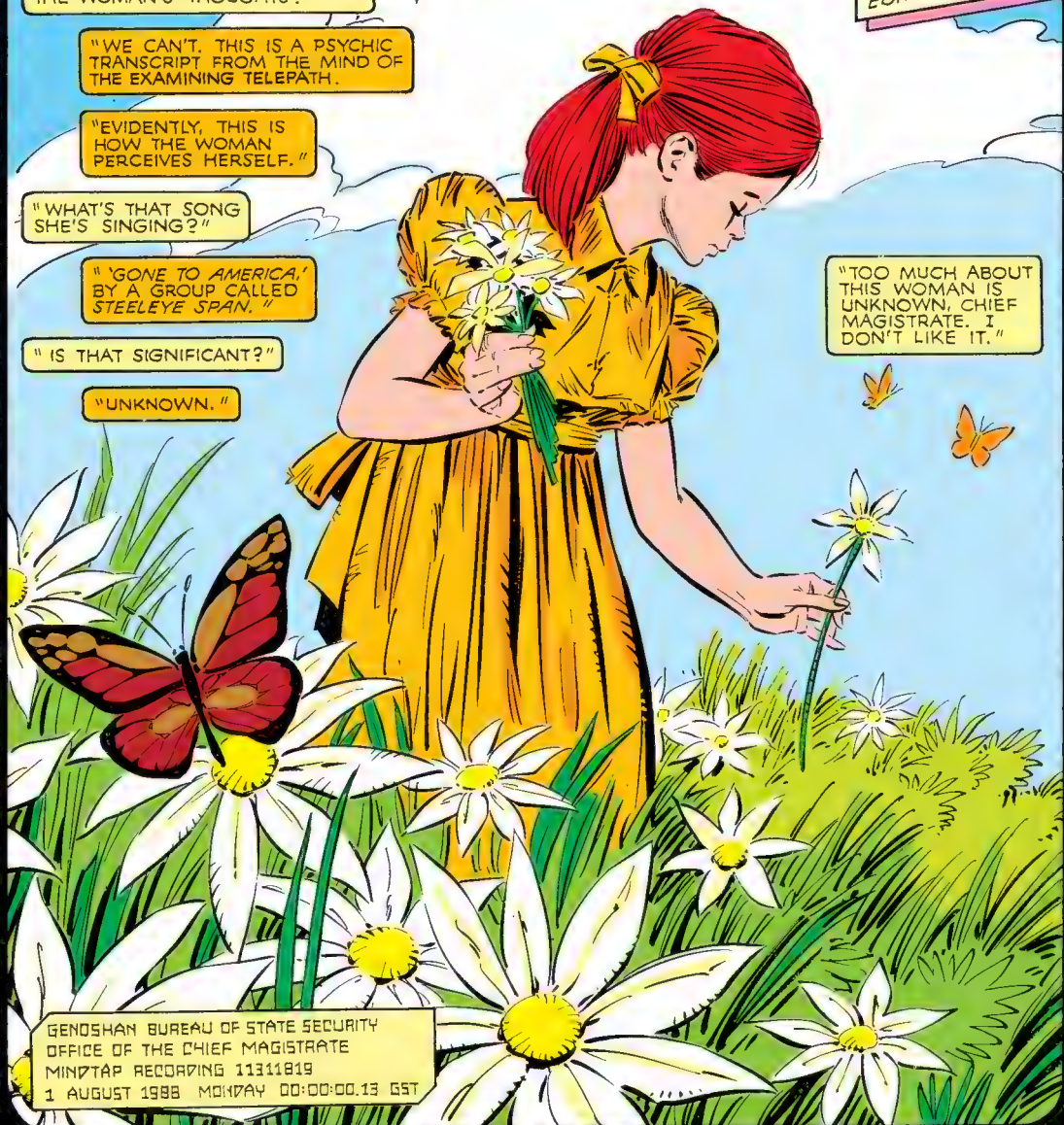
"'GONE TO AMERICA,'
BY A GROUP CALLED
STEELEYE SPAN."

"IS THAT SIGNIFICANT?"

"UNKNOWN."

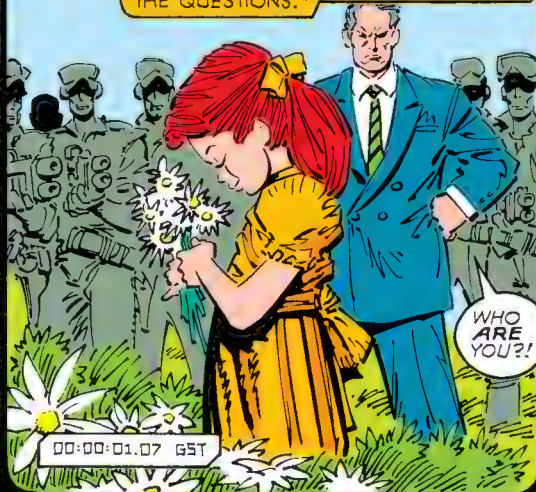
"TOO MUCH ABOUT
THIS WOMAN IS
UNKNOWN, CHIEF
MAGISTRATE. I
DON'T LIKE IT."

GENOSHAN BUREAU OF STATE SECURITY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE
MINDTAP RECORDING 11311819
1 AUGUST 1988 MONDAY 00:00:00.13 GST



"THAT'S--
ME?!"

"CORRECT, GENENGINEER. EVEN THOUGH
THE TELEPATH WAS CONDUCTING THE
INTERROGATION, THE WOMAN CORRECTLY
PERCEIVED YOU AS THE TRUE SOURCE OF
THE QUESTIONS."

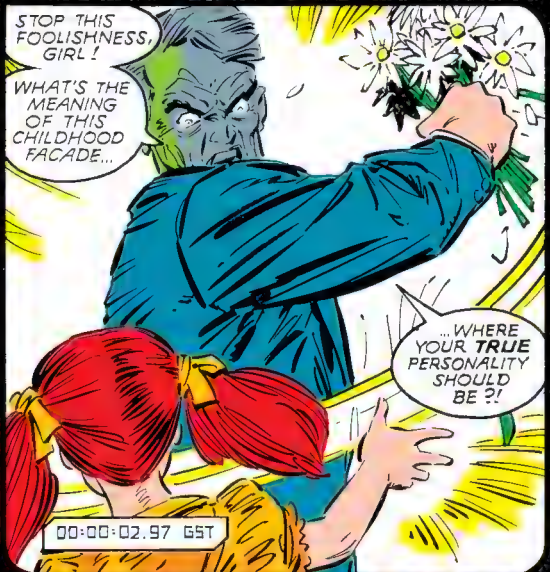


00:00:01.07 GST

WHO
ARE
YOU?!

STOP THIS
FOOLISHNESS,
GIRL!

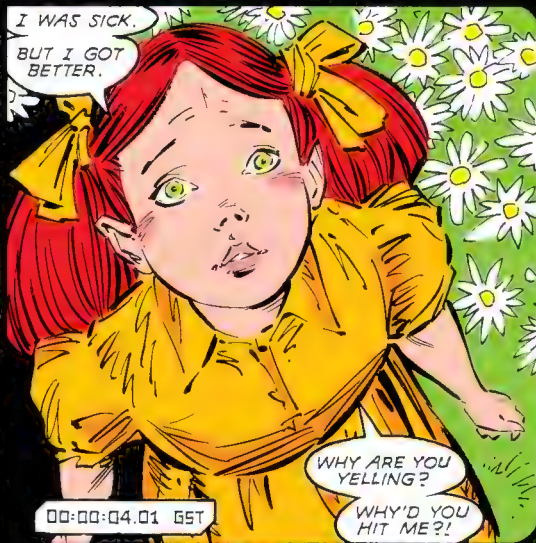
WHAT'S THE
MEANING
OF THIS
CHILDHOOD
FACADE...



00:00:02.97 GST

...WHERE
YOUR TRUE
PERSONALITY
SHOULD
BE ?!

I WAS SICK.
BUT I GOT
BETTER.



00:00:04.01 GST

WHY ARE YOU
YELLING?

WHY'D YOU
HIT ME?!

WHY DO
YOU WANT
TO HURT ME?!



00:00:04.37 GST

YOU'RE--
NOT
HUMAN!

I AM
WHAT
I AM.

HAVE
MADE
ME.
WHAT
MEN
LIKE
YOU...

MAGISTRATES--

--OPEN FIRE--

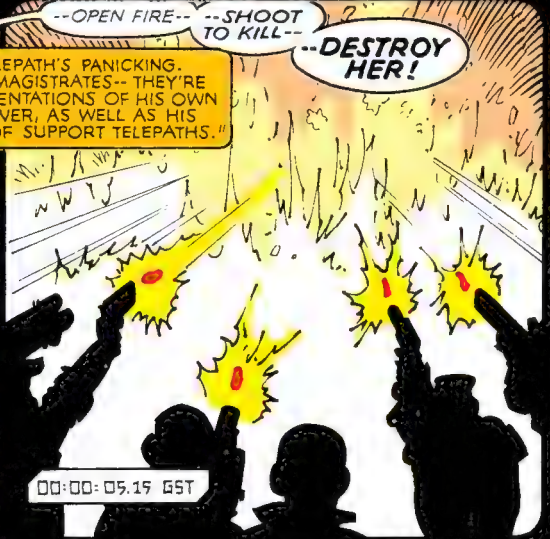
--SHOOT
TO KILL--

--DESTROY
HER!

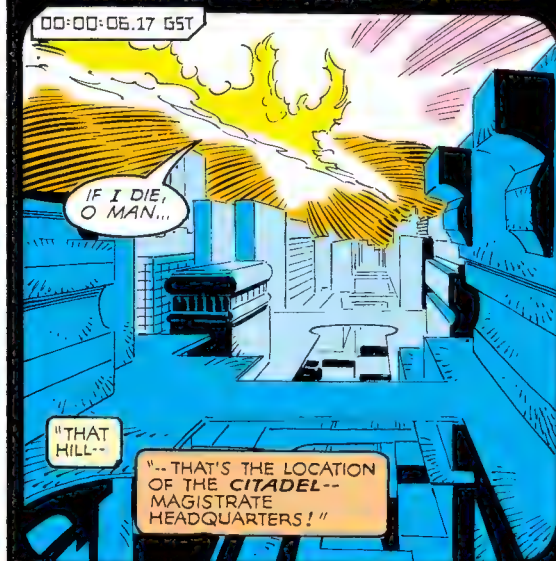
"THE TELEPATH'S PANICKING.
THOSE MAGISTRATES-- THEY'RE
REPRESENTATIONS OF HIS OWN
PSI-POWER, AS WELL AS HIS
TEAM OF SUPPORT TELEPATHS."



00:00:07.03 GST



00:00:09.19 GST



00:00:08.93 GST

THE ONE
AND ONLY.
BUT-- YOU'RE
DIFFERENT!

AREN'T
WE ALL!

FROM CHAOS,
CHANGE,
AND CHANGE,
GROWTH.

THE PATTERN OF
LIFE, AS OLD
AS CREATION.

QUESTION, THOUGH, IS
THIS THE GROWTH, THE
CHANGE--OR THE CHAOS?

00:00:10.39 GST

"LOOK AT HER,
GENENGINEER!
SHE'S
HESITATING,
CONFUSED--

"--I DON'T
THINK SHE
KNOWS THE
ANSWER!"

THE
ONE...

...BECAUSE...

...IT PLEASES ME.

00:00:12.77 GST

...THROUGH THE
DARKNESS.

BECAUSE
YOU NEVER
KNOW...

...WHEN
YOU'LL
IGNITE...

YEAARGH!

00:00:09.13 GST

NO!
NO! IT
CAN'T
BE!

I'VE
NEVER
LOST
CONTROL
OF AN
INTERROGA-
TION!

FIRST
TIME
FOR
EVERY-
THING.

WHY AM I
DRESSED
LIKE THIS?!

WHAT DO
YOU WANT?!!

00:00:11.92 GST

...AS A
WARNING...
THE
OTHER...

...TO YOUR
MASTERS.

BE CAREFUL
WHEN YOU
STRIKE A
MATCH--

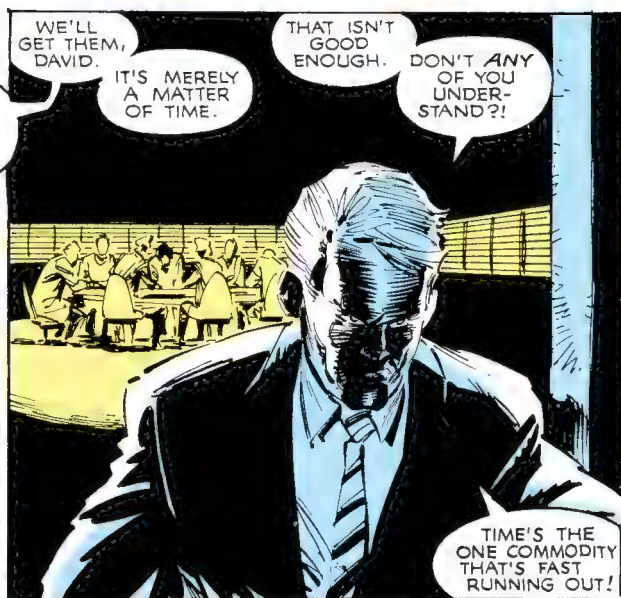
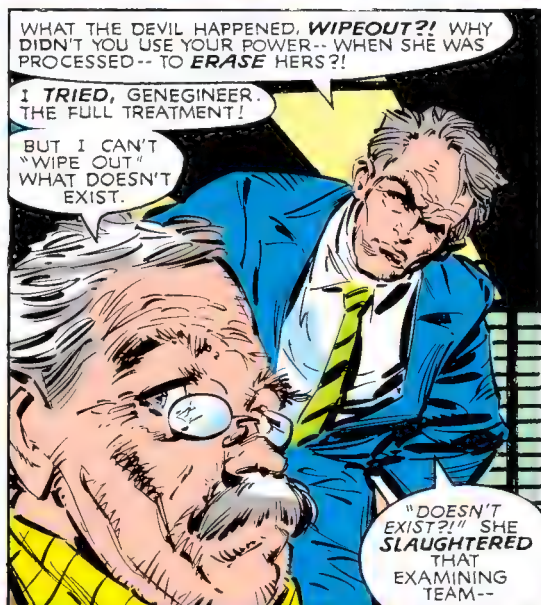
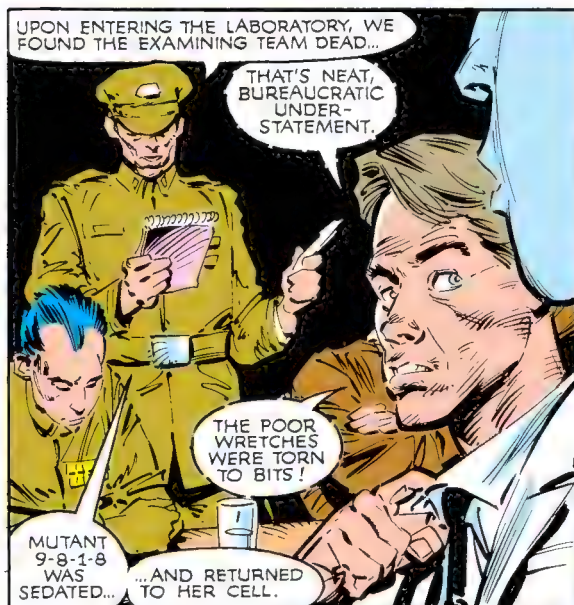
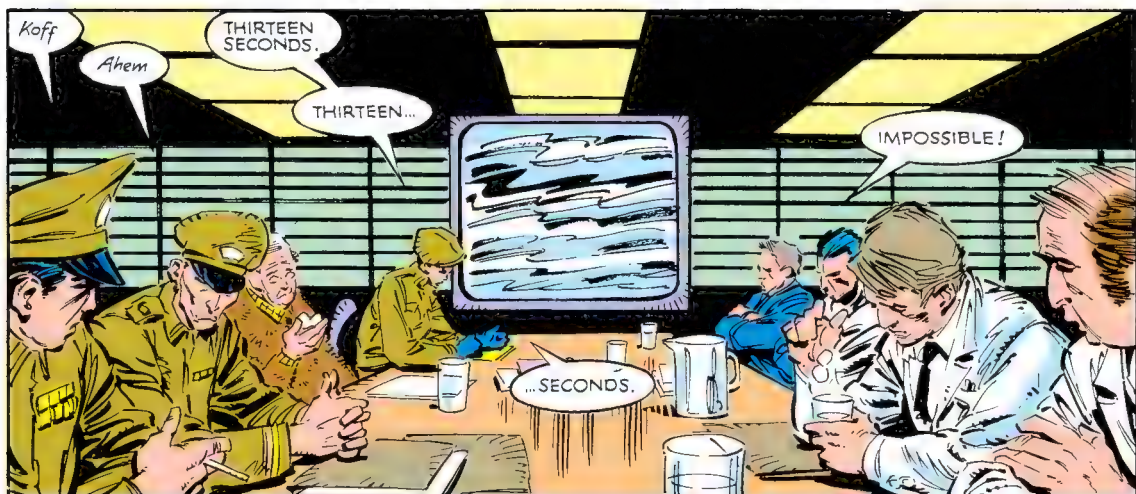
-- EVEN
IF ONLY...

...TO LIGHT
YOUR WAY...

00:00:13.00 GST

...AN
INFERNO!

INTERROGATION
TERMINATED





WHO ARE YOU?!

WHAT ARE YOU?!!



MUTANT PRISONER 9-8-1-8.

THE PILOT YOU KIDNAPED.

THE WOMAN YOU AND YOUR PET GESTAPO...

...HAVE BEEN HAPPILY TORTURING.



YOU **BUTCHERED** MY INTERROGATION TEAM!

IT DIDN'T BOTHER HIM THAT THE PROCESS VIOLATED ME, OR THAT IT HURT--

--HE SEEMED TO ENJOY IT.

YOU CALL IT "BUTCHERY." OTHERS MIGHT, CALL IT, SELF DEFENSE!

SO YOU SAY.

ALL I REMEMBER IS BEING STRAPPED TO A TABLE, WITH YOUR PET TELEPATH HOT TO TURN MY MIND INSIDE OUT.

THE NEXT I KNEW, I WAS HERE, BACK IN MY CELL.



BUT WHAT I THINK AND FEEL AND WANT DON'T REALLY MATTER, DO THEY? I WAS CONDEMNED THE MOMENT I ARRIVED HERE.

WE HAVE A WAY OF LIFE ON GENOSHA...

...THAT'S THE ENVY OF THE WORLD.

IT MUST BE PROTECTED.

EVER WONDER IF YOUR **SLAVES** SHARE THOSE PASSIONS?

OUR MUTANTS ARE WELL CARED FOR, THEY WANT FOR NOTHING--!

EXCEPT **FREEDOM!**

THEY'RE AS FREE AS THEY NEED TO BE!



MOST PEOPLE ON EARTH WOULD WELCOME SUCH FREEDOM IN RETURN FOR THE MATERIAL WELL-BEING THAT ACCOMPANIES IT!

THEN WHAT ARE YOU SO SCARED OF?

IF YOUR SYSTEM'S SUCH A MARVEL, WHY NOT SHARE IT WITH EVERYONE?

DON'T BE NAÏVE. THE KNEE-JERK BLEEDING HEARTS WOULD CONDEMN US OUT OF HAND--

--WHILE WORKING COVERTLY TO EXPROPRIATE AND EXPLOIT OUR PARA-HUMAN RESOURCES FOR THEMSELVES. OUR **SECURITY** IS OUR STRENGTH, OUR SECURITY-- OUR **SURVIVAL!**

AND IF SOME INNOCENT BYSTANDERS GET CHOPPED ALONG THE WAY--

--THEM'S THE BREAKS, huh?



WHAT IS NECESSARY, IS DONE.

IT GIVES HER VIEWS A VALIDITY THEY DO NOT MERIT.

EITHER WE ARE RIGHT IN WHAT WE DO...

...IN WHICH CASE ARGUMENT IS POINTLESS--

--OR WE ARE WRONG...

"SIEG HEIL" TO YOU, TOO, SWEETIE.

YOU ARE A **FOOL**, GENENGINEER, TO DEBATE WITH HER.



...IN WHICH CASE, ARGUMENT IS EQUALLY POINTLESS.

WE DO NOT QUESTION THE COURSE OF OUR LIVES...

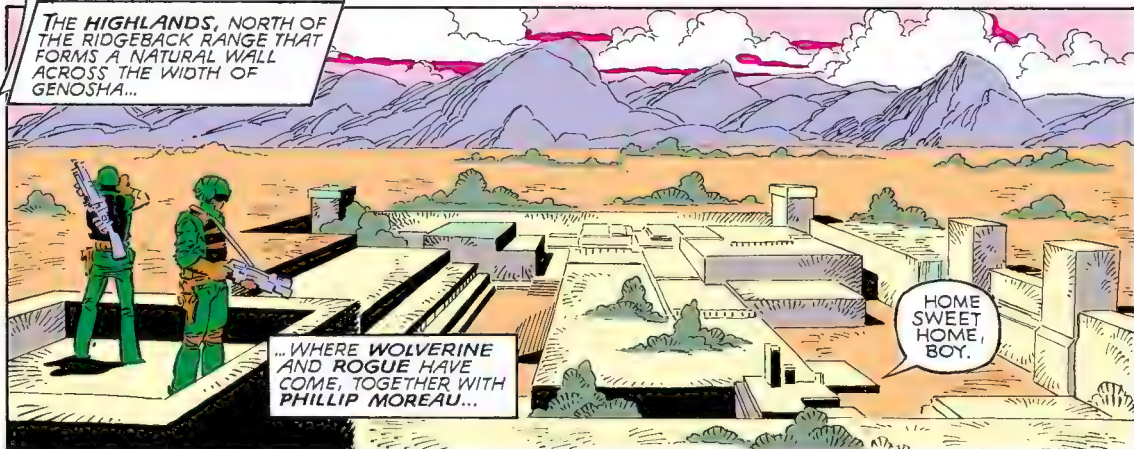
...WE REMAIN **TRUE** TO IT.

AND MAKE WHATEVER **SACRIFICES** ARE REQUIRED OF US.



WE HAVE WORD OF YOUR SON.

THE HIGHLANDS, NORTH OF THE RIDGEBACK RANGE THAT FORMS A NATURAL WALL ACROSS THE WIDTH OF GENOSHA...



...WHERE WOLVERINE AND ROGUE HAVE COME, TOGETHER WITH PHILLIP MOREAU...

HOME SWEET HOME, BOY.



IF YOU'RE A MUTANT.

BUT-- WHY ALL THE GUARDS?

YOU'RE A BRIGHT KID, PHIL...



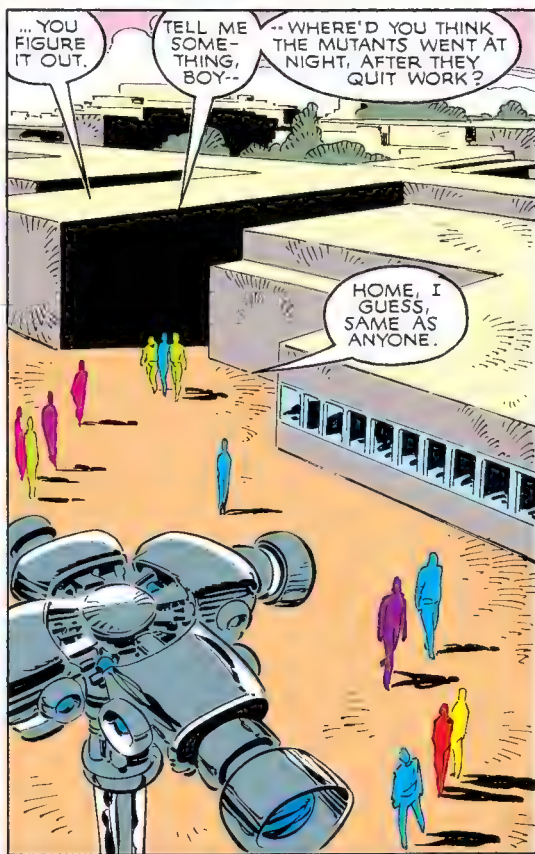
WELL, THEN, HERE IT IS. HERE YOU ARE.

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

I NEVER...

...I NEVER IMAGINED...

...IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS.



... YOU FIGURE IT OUT.

TELL ME SOMETHING, BOY--

--WHERE'D YOU THINK THE MUTANTS WENT AT NIGHT, AFTER THEY QUIT WORK?

HOME, I GUESS, SAME AS ANYONE.



LIVE AND LEARN, KIDDO.

WELCOME TO THE MUTANT SETTLEMENT ZONE.

A PRISON, BY ANY OTHER NAME.



OUT OF
SIGHT, OUT
OF MIND,
huh?

NEVER
IMAGINED,
NEVER
THOUGHT--
NEVER
CARED.

LIKE KEEPS TO LIKE,
THAT'S WHAT I
WAS ALWAYS
TAUGHT.

THE
MUTES--

--er, SORRY,
MUTANTS,
NO OFFENSE--



--THEY NATURALLY
PREFERRED THE
COMPANY OF THEIR
OWN KIND.

THEIR OWN
WAY OF LIFE,
IN THEIR OWN
PLACE.

IS THAT SO
WRONG?

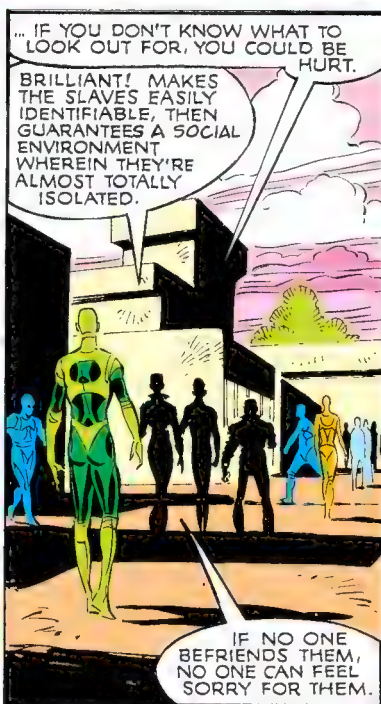
YOU TELL US.



YOU NEVER WONDERED ABOUT
THE UNIFORMS THE MUTANTS WEAR?
WHAT, YOU MAYBE FIGURED THEY
WERE SOME SORT OF TRIBAL
COLORS?

FOR THEIR
PROTECTION--
AND OURS--

--SOME OF THE WORK
THEY DO, THE POWERS
THEY WIELD, THEY'RE
SO DANGEROUS...



... IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO
LOOK OUT FOR, YOU COULD BE
HURT.

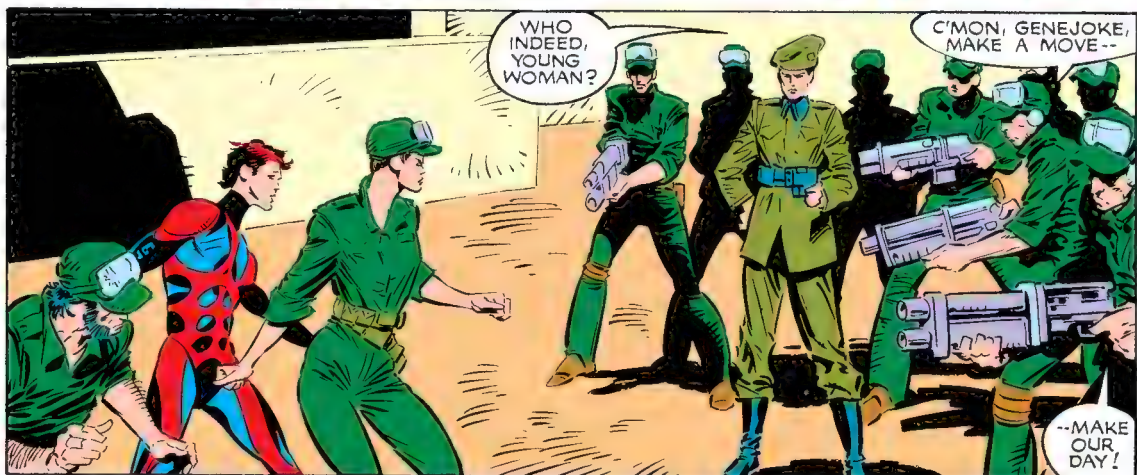
BRILLIANT! MAKES
THE SLAVES EASILY
IDENTIFIABLE, THEN
GUARANTEES A SOCIAL
ENVIRONMENT
WHEREIN THEY'RE
ALMOST TOTALLY
ISOLATED.

IF NO ONE
BEFRIENDS THEM,
NO ONE CAN FEEL
SORRY FOR THEM.



EFFECTIVELY, THEY BECOME
EXTENSIONS OF THEIR JOBS--
PERCEIVED NOT AS PEOPLE
ANY LONGER BUT ORGANIC
MACHINES.

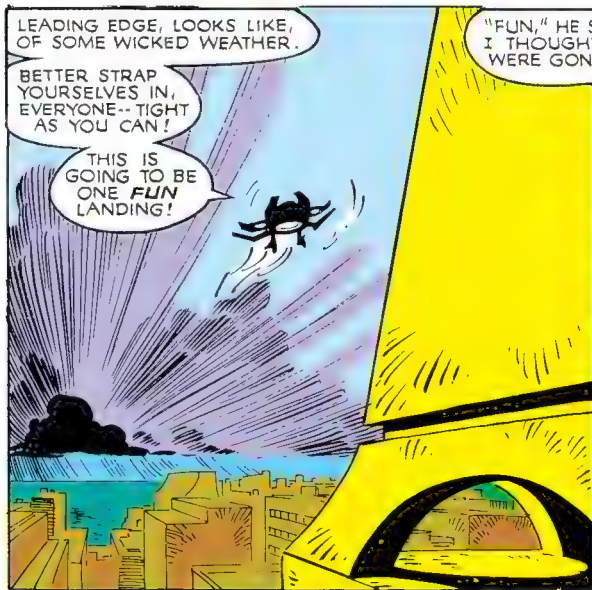
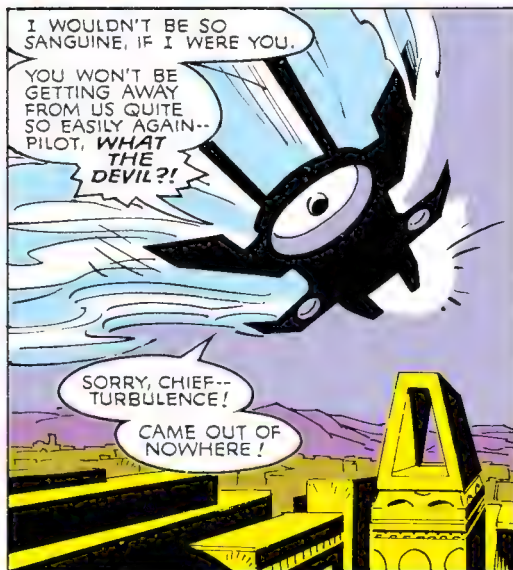
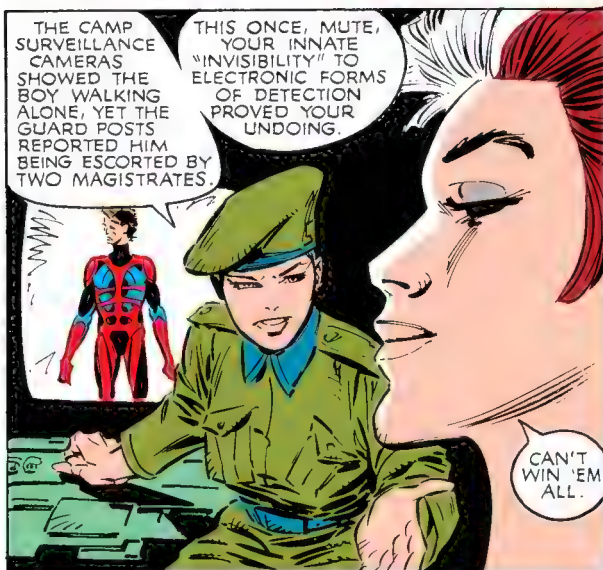
AND WHO CARES WHAT
HAPPENS TO
MACHINES?



WHO
INDEED,
YOUNG
WOMAN?

C'MON, GENEJOKE,
MAKE A MOVE--

--MAKE
OUR
DAY!





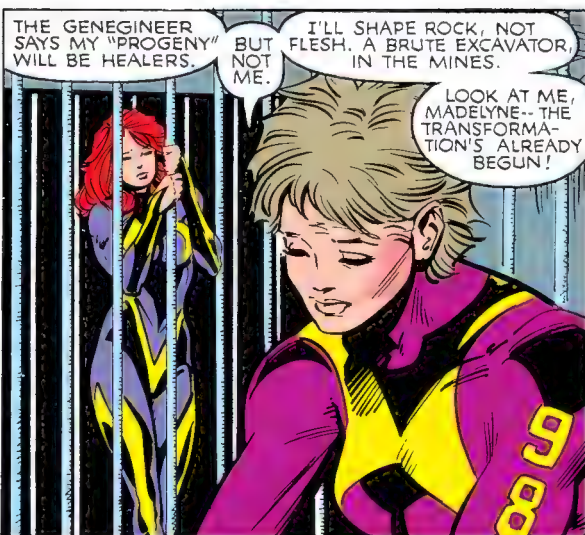
MEANWHILE,
DOWN BELOW...

ALL I WANTED WAS TO HELP
PEOPLE, TO SAVE LIVES.

THERE'S NO
NEED HERE--
THE HEALERS
TAKE CARE OF
THAT--

--SO I EMIGRATED
TO AUSTRALIA AND
JOINED THE FLYING
DOCTOR SERVICE.

I THOUGHT,
AS A NURSE, I
COULD MAKE A
DIFFERENCE,
BE OF REAL
SERVICE!

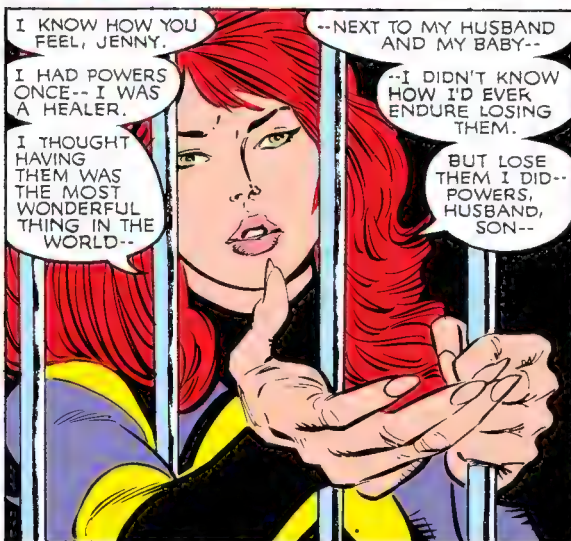


THE GENEGINEER
SAYS MY "PROGENY"
WILL BE HEALERS.

BUT
NOT
ME!

I'LL SHAPE ROCK, NOT
FLESH. A BRUTE EXCAVATOR,
IN THE MINES.

LOOK AT ME,
MADELYNE-- THE
TRANSFORMA-
TION'S ALREADY
BEGUN!



I KNOW HOW YOU
FEEL, JENNY.

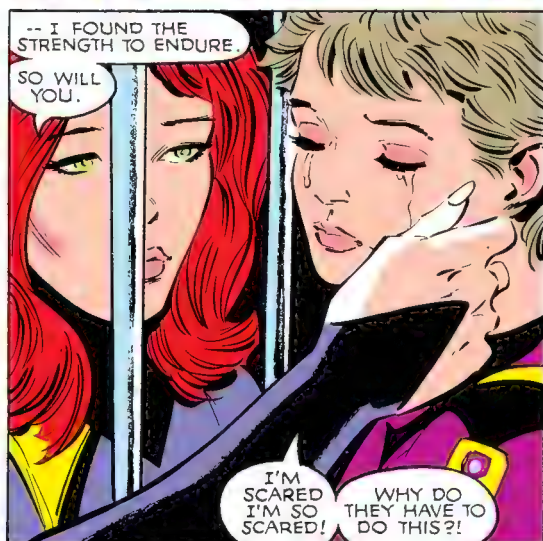
I HAD POWERS
ONCE-- I WAS
A HEALER.

I THOUGHT
HAVING
THEM WAS
THE MOST
WONDERFUL
THING IN THE
WORLD--

--NEXT TO MY HUSBAND
AND MY BABY--

--I DIDN'T KNOW
HOW I'D EVER
ENDURE LOSING
THEM.

BUT LOSE
THEM I DID--
POWERS,
HUSBAND,
SON--



-- I FOUND THE
STRENGTH TO ENDURE.

SO WILL
YOU.

I'M
SCARED
I'M SO
SCARED!

WHY DO
THEY HAVE TO
DO THIS?!



MUTANT
9-8-1-7.
TIME FOR
ANOTHER
SESSION.

I HAVE
A NAME!

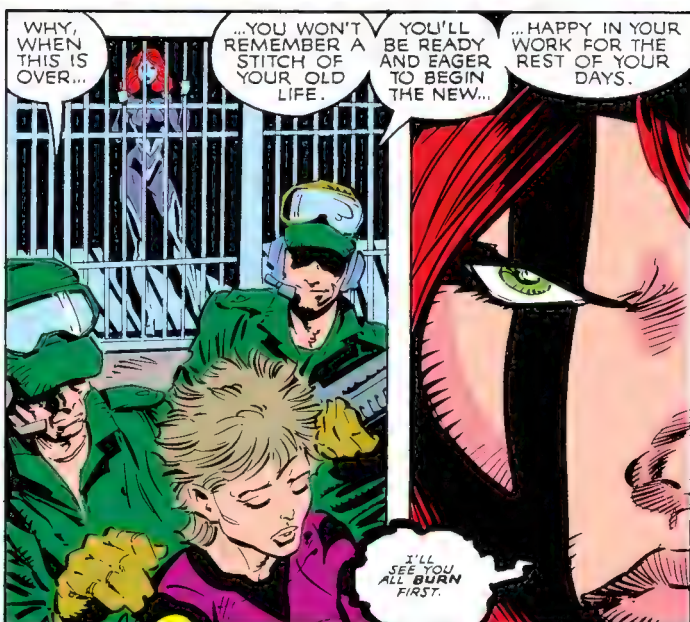
NOT
ANYMORE.

NO.

I'M
JENNIFER
RANSOME!

DON'T
LOOK
SO SAD,
GIRL.

IT'S NOT
SO BAD AS
YOU THINK.



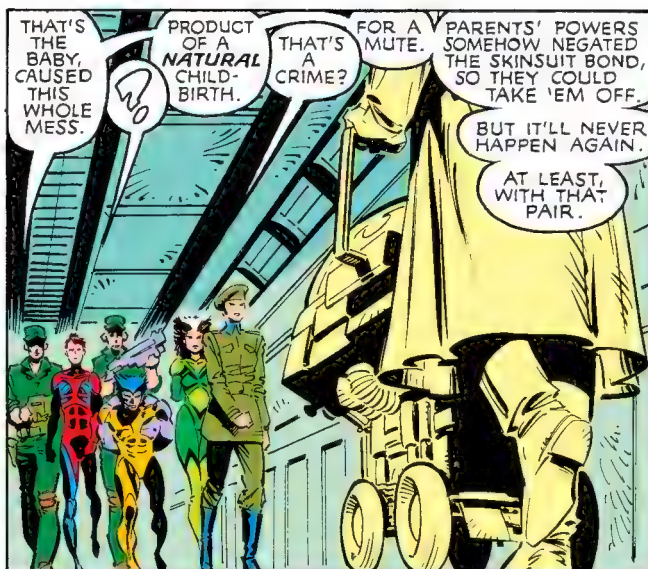
WHY,
WHEN THIS
IS OVER...

...YOU WON'T
REMEMBER A
STITCH OF
YOUR OLD
LIFE.

YOU'LL
BE READY
AND EAGER
TO BEGIN
THE NEW...

...HAPPY IN YOUR
WORK FOR THE
REST OF YOUR
DAYS.

I'LL
SEE YOU
ALL BURN
FIRST.



THAT'S THE BABY CAUSED THIS WHOLE MESS.

PRODUCT OF A NATURAL CHILD-BIRTH.

THAT'S A CRIME?

FOR A MUTE.

PARENTS' POWERS SOMEHOW NEGATED THE SKINSUIT BOND, SO THEY COULD TAKE 'EM OFF.

BUT IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

AT LEAST, WITH THAT PAIR.



KILLED 'EM, DIDJA?

WOULDN'T SURRENDER. THEY PAID THE PRICE.

COST US A SQUAD OF MAGISTRATES IN THE PROCESS.

GOOD FOR THEM.



I WANT ANSWERS.

YOU'D DO WELL TO GIVE THEM TO ME.

WHO ARE YOU?

CALL HER ACE. I'M PATCH.

I'M IN NO MOOD FOR GAMES, MUTANT!

MAKES TWO OF US.



THEY ARE MUTANTS.

THE WAY OF LIFE YOU SPEAK OF THEY ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. EVERYTHING WE POSSESS DERIVES FROM THEM.

PHILLIP--THOSE FEW HUNDRED SOULS COULD RULE THIS LAND WITH VERY LITTLE EFFORT, THEY COULD MAKE US SLAVES!

INSTEAD, WE'VE MADE THEM OUR MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE, TO BE HUSBANDED AND UTILIZED FOR THE GOOD OF US ALL.

IS THAT SO WRONG?

IF YOU HAVETA ASK, BUB...



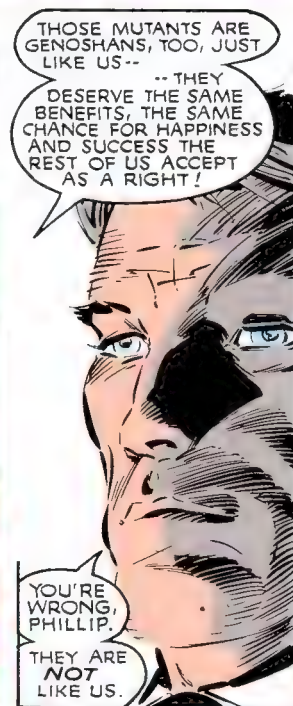
I'VE BEEN BEYOND THE RIDGE-BACKS.

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE.

I'VE SEEN THE CAMP, DAD, IT'S A PRISON!

WHY HASN'T THE COUNTRY BEEN TOLD?! WHY WON'T YOU LEVEL WITH THE PEOPLE ABOUT THE REGIME YOU FORCE THE MUTANTS TO LIVE UNDER?!!

IT'S NO CONCERN OF THEIRS.



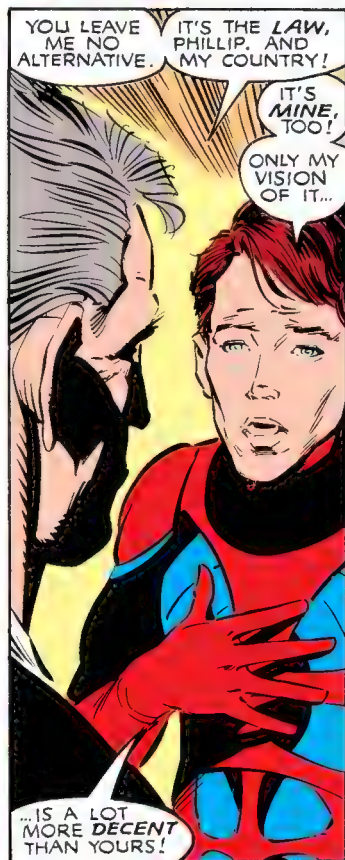
THOSE MUTANTS ARE GENOSHANS, TOO, JUST LIKE US--

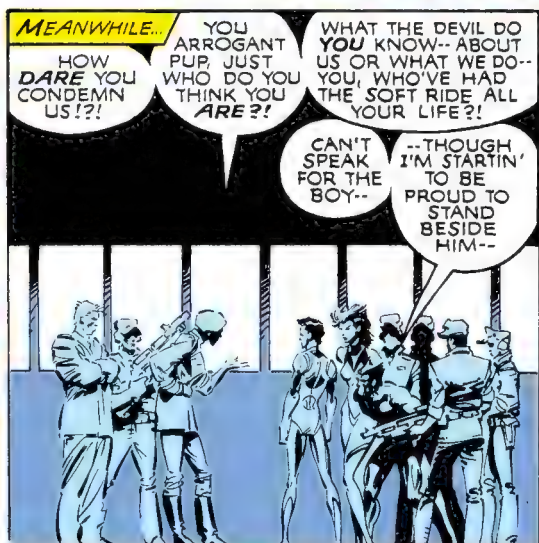
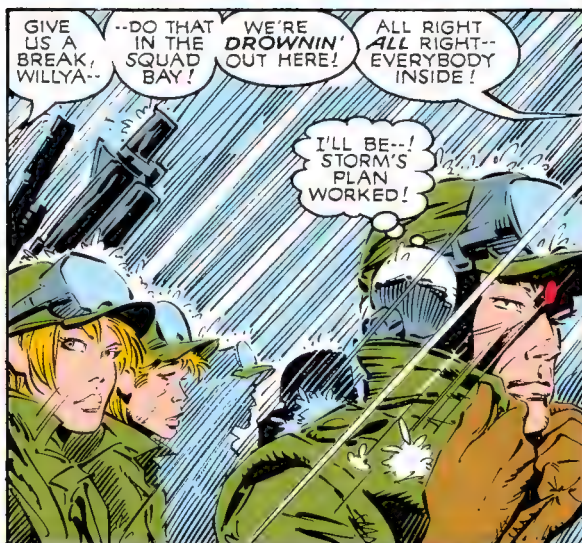
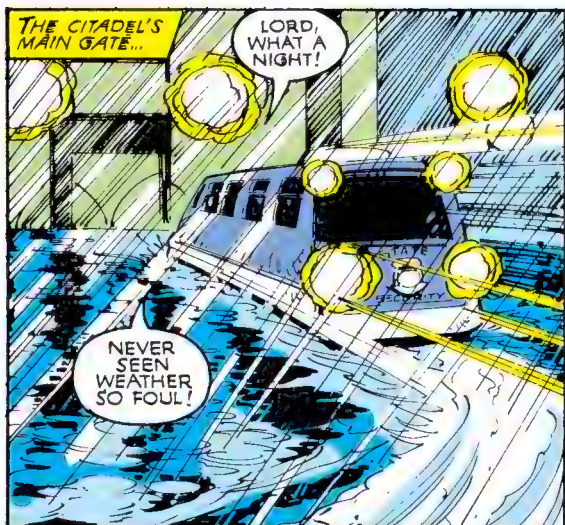
-- THEY DESERVE THE SAME BENEFITS, THE SAME CHANCE FOR HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS THE REST OF US ACCEPT AS A RIGHT!

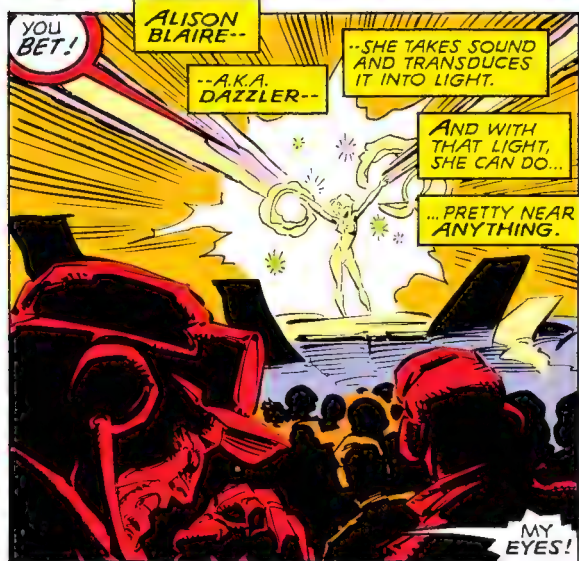
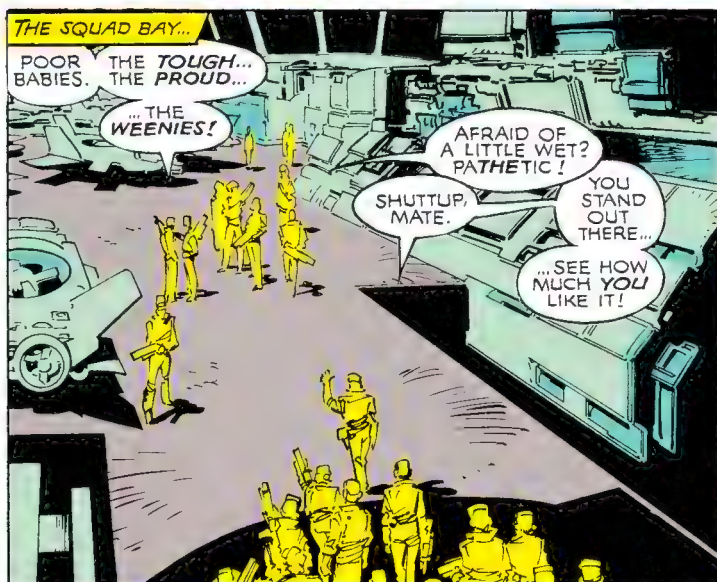
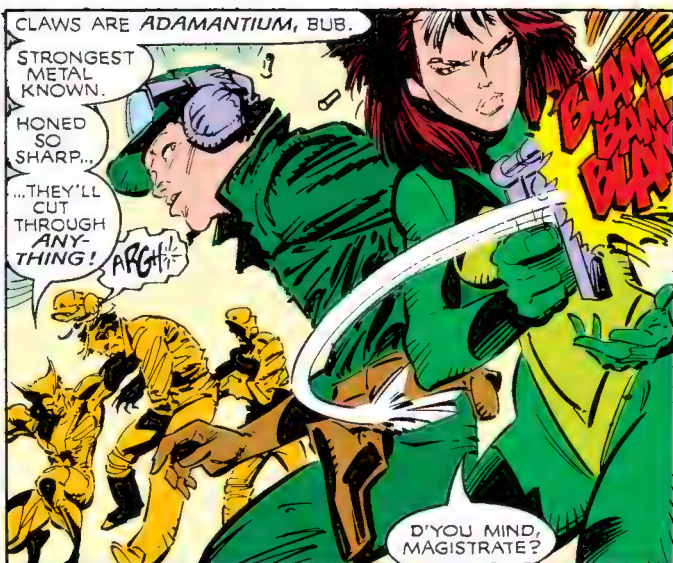
YOU'RE WRONG, PHILLIP.

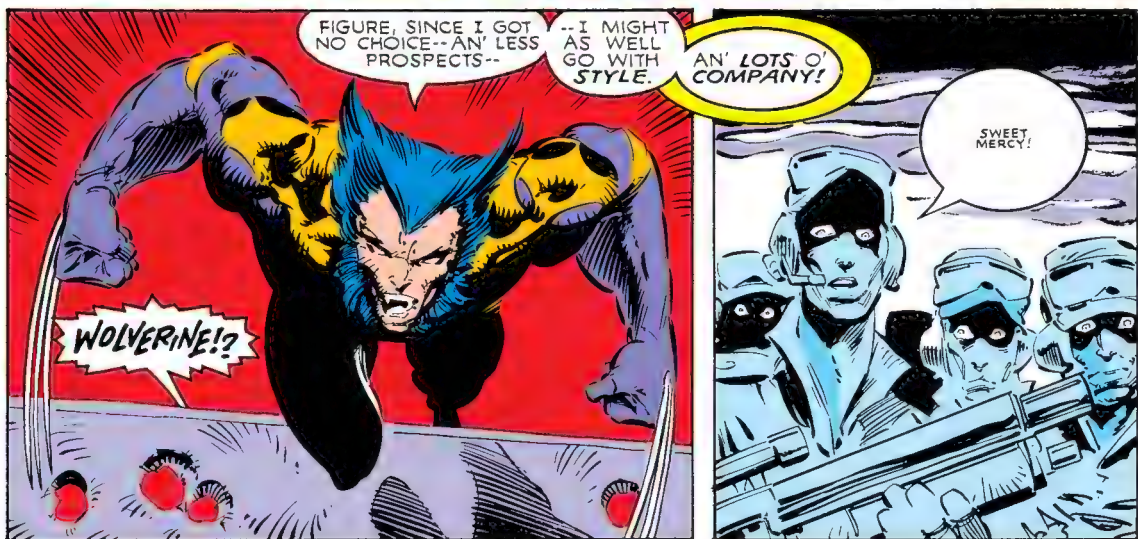
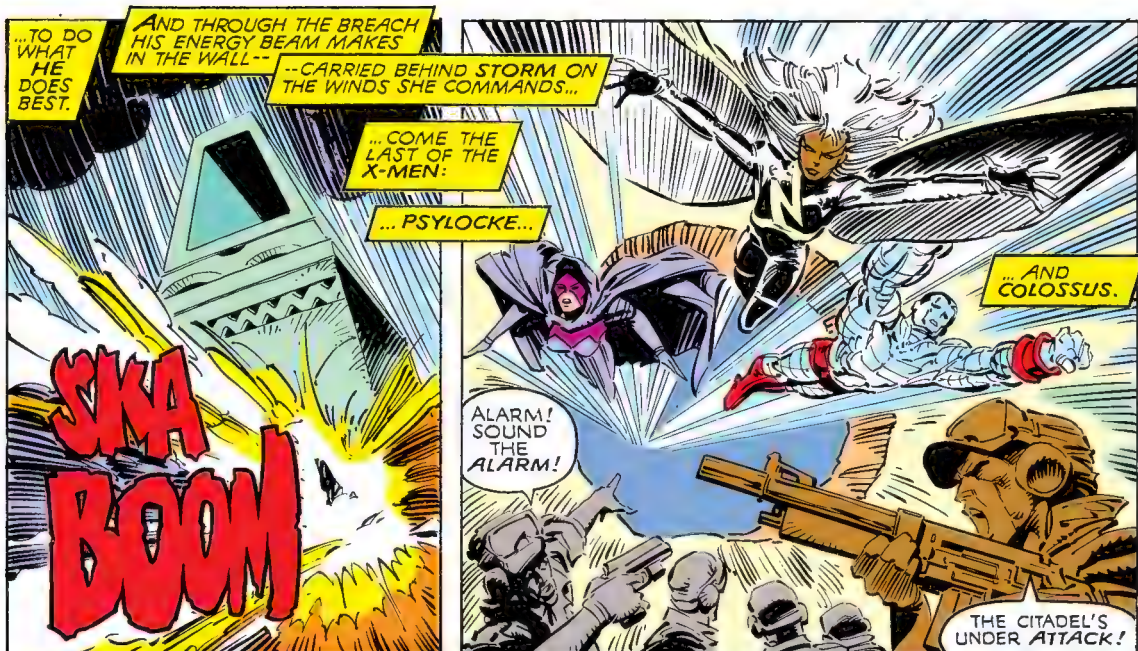
THEY ARE NOT LIKE US.

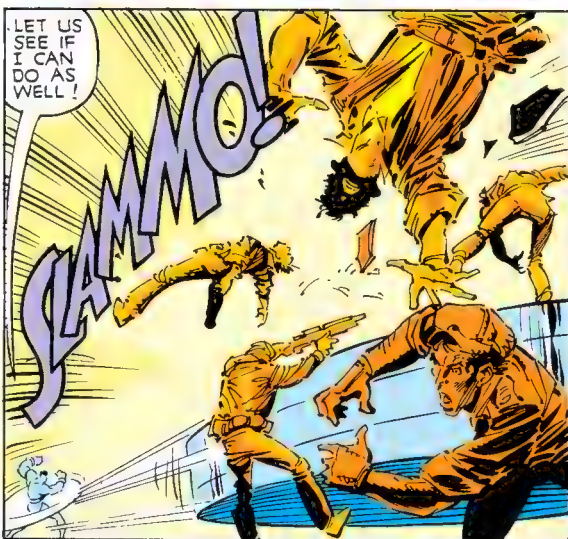
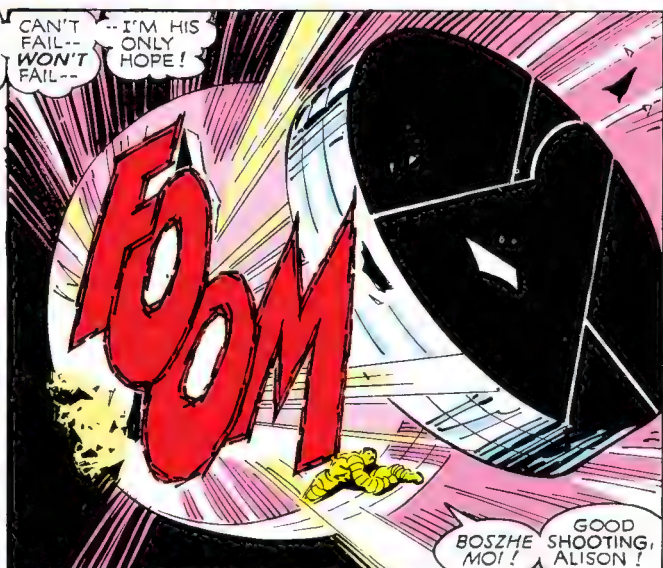
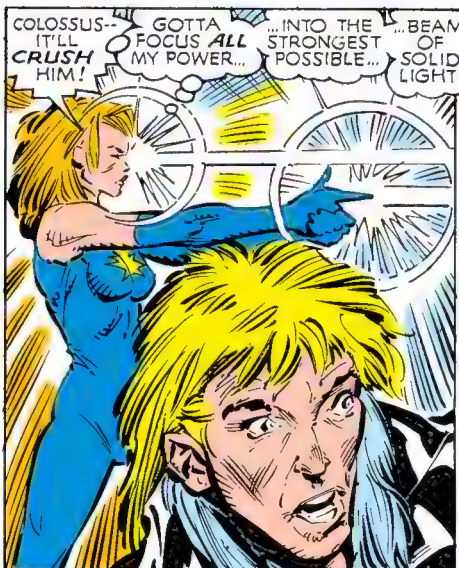
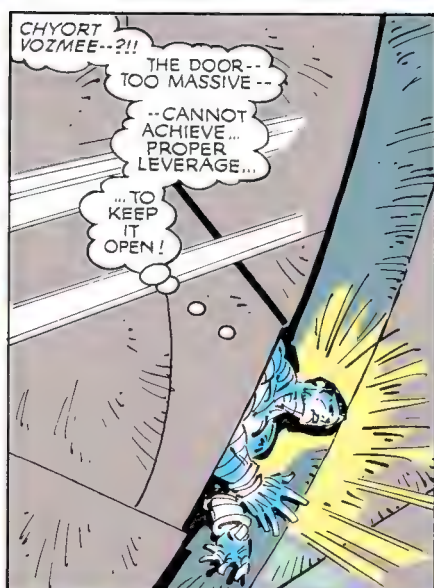
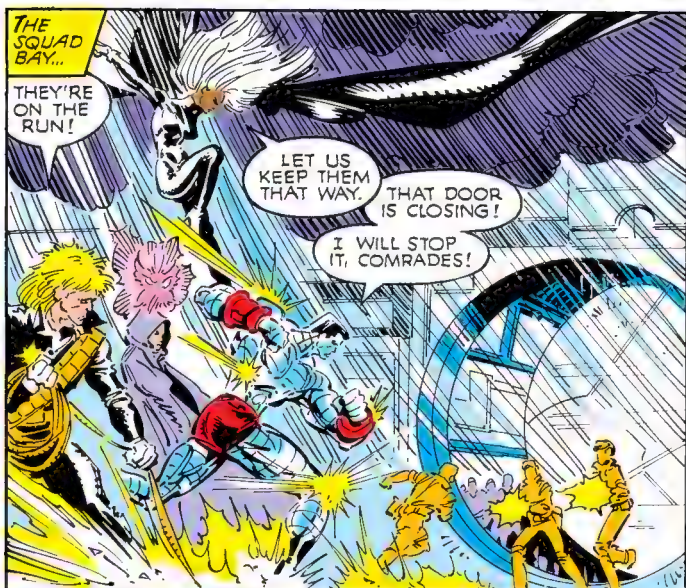
...THERE'S NO POINT IN ANSWERIN'.

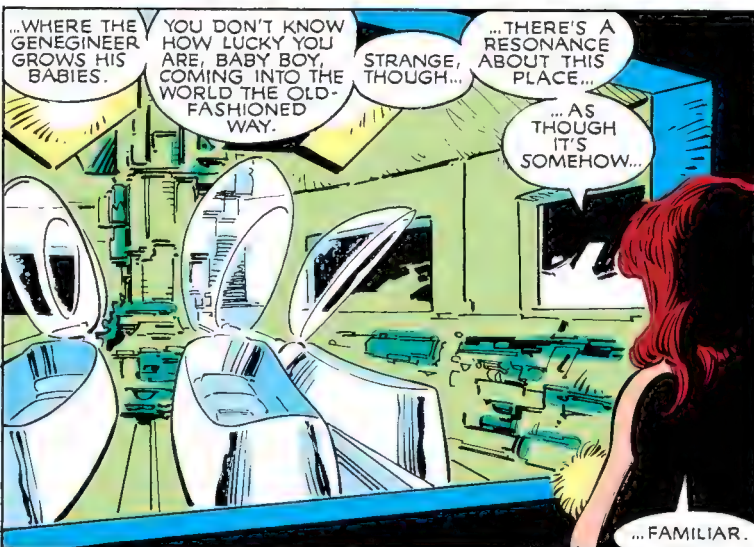
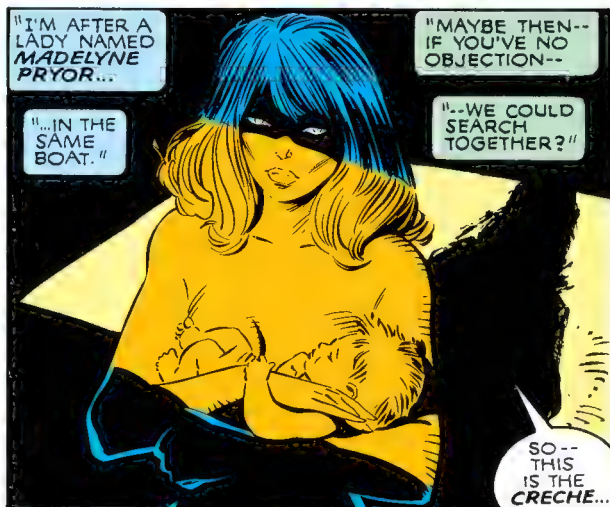
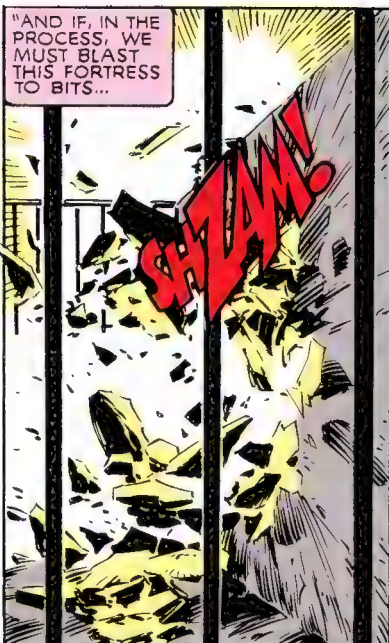














PERHAPS I SUMMONED YOU.

THEN YOU DO HAVE POWERS!

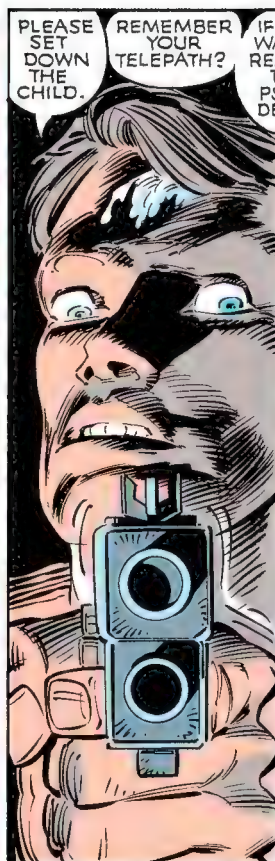
OR THE WIT TO RUN A BLUFF.



AND THE SKILL TO MAKE IT CONVINCING.

I SHOULD HAVE ORDERED YOUR TERMINATION AT THE FIRST SIGH OF TROUBLE!

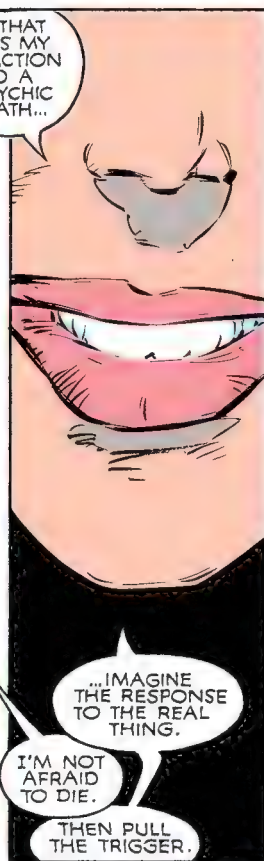
AN OVERSIGHT I'LL GLADLY REMEDY MYSELF!



PLEASE SET DOWN THE CHILD.

REMEMBER YOUR TELEPATH?

IF THAT WAS MY REACTION TO A PSYCHIC DEATH...



...IMAGINE THE RESPONSE TO THE REAL THING.

I'M NOT AFRAID TO DIE.

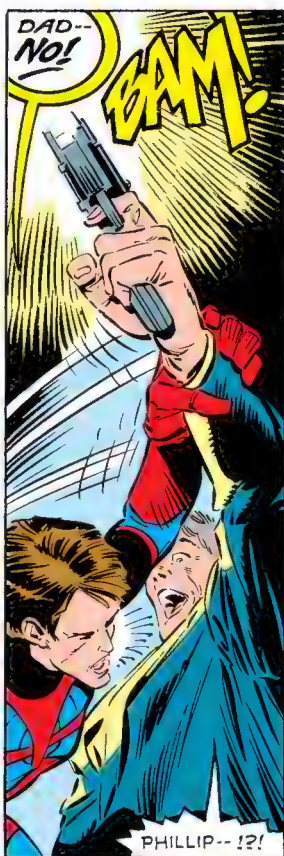
THEN PULL THE TRIGGER.



AND WE'LL FIND OUT...

...WHICH OF US IS BLUFFING...

...AND WHICH, TRULY BOUND FOR GLORY!



DAD-- NO!

BAM!

PHILLIP-- !?



MADELYNE--!

'BOUT TIME, LOVER.

I WAS BEGINNING TO WONDER...

...IF YOU'D FORGOTTEN ME.

NEVER!

WHERE'S JENNY, DAD?!



TAKE US TO HER--OR SO HELP ME...

...I'LL USE THIS!

SHE'S QUICKLY FOUND--THOUGH PHILLIP MOREAU CAN'T REPRESS A WAIL OF ANGUISH WHEN HE SEES WHAT'S BEEN DONE TO HER--

--AND THE X-MEN, THEIR FRIENDS AND THEIR PRISONERS...

...RETURN TO THE SQUAD BAY...

CITADEL'S SECURE, BOSS.

...WHERE THE BATTLE BEGAN.

AT TOO HIGH A PRICE.

WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE SOONER.

THERE'S THE BREAKS, DARLIN'.

I HAD A GOOD RUN.

IF THIS IS WHERE IT ENDS...

...AIN'T SUCH A BAD WAY TO GO.

YOU'RE NOT DEAD YET, SHORTY.

WIPEOUT HERE "ERASED" WOLVIE'S AND MY POWERS.

FOR HIS SAKE, THAT PROCESS BETTER BE REVERSIBLE.

OH IT IS, IT IS!

YOUR VOICE... AND MANNER ... ?!?

ROGUE'S IN THE BACK SEAT.

THIS IS THE CAROL DANVERS SIDE OF HER DUAL PERSONALITY, RUNNING THINGS.

...HOW CAN WE ENSURE HE WON'T TURN HIS POWER ON THE REST OF US?

WHO SAID I WAS GOING TO LET HIM USE IT?

PSYLOCKE--

--WILL YOU DO THE HONORS?

AND WITH SURPRISING EASE, ONCE PSYLOCKE HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF WIPEOUT'S MIND, CAROL FEELS BOUNDLESS STRENGTH FLOW BACK INTO ROGUE'S BODY--

--AS WELL AS, UNFORTUNATELY, HER STILL UNCONTROLLABLE ABILITY TO ABSORB THE POWERS AND PSYCHES OF OTHERS.

SHE'S HERSELF AGAIN--WHICH MEANS SHE NO LONGER DARES TOUCH ANOTHER.

WIN SOME, LOSE SOME.

AS FOR WOLVERINE...

FELT BETTER, ACE.

BUT NOW I KNOW I'LL GET TO FEEL BETTER...

...I FEEL GREAT!



WHAT ABOUT THE GENENGINEER AND HIS MAGISTRATES?

KILL 'EM!

TEAR THIS SLIMEBALL CONCENTRATION CAMP COUNTRY O' THEIRS DOWN TO THE BARE ROCK...

...AN' BUILD SOMETHIN' DECENT FROM THE ASHES.



YOU CAN'T!

WATCH ME.

THAT ISN'T THE WAY. WE HAVE TO GIVE THE PEOPLE A CHANCE--TO SET THINGS RIGHT.

TELL THEM WHAT I'VE SEEN AND LEARNED, THEY'LL BE AS REVOLTED AS I WAS.

THEY'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT...



...WITHOUT HAVING TO BE COERCED.

YOU'RE A DREAMER, BOY.

POWER STRUCTURE'S GOT EVERYTHING TO LOSE BY YIELDING...

...AN' NOTHING TO GAIN--
--THEY'LL SQUASH YOU.

ALL YOU'LL BE DOING...

... IS POSTPONING THAT FINAL CONFRONTATION...



...AN' PROBABLY MAKING IT A WHOLE LOT WORSE.

PERHAPS SO-- BUT I HAVE TO TRY.

THIS IS MY COUNTRY. I HAVE TO BELIEVE IN IT.

YOU HAVE TO GIVE US THE CHANCE.



EVERYONE-- OUTSIDE!

GOTTA GIVE THE KID CREDIT FOR GUTS.

FEEL SORRY FOR HIM, ACE.

DOESN'T DESERVE...

...WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO HIM.



GENENGINEER-- CHIEF
MAGISTRATE--
GENOSHANS--

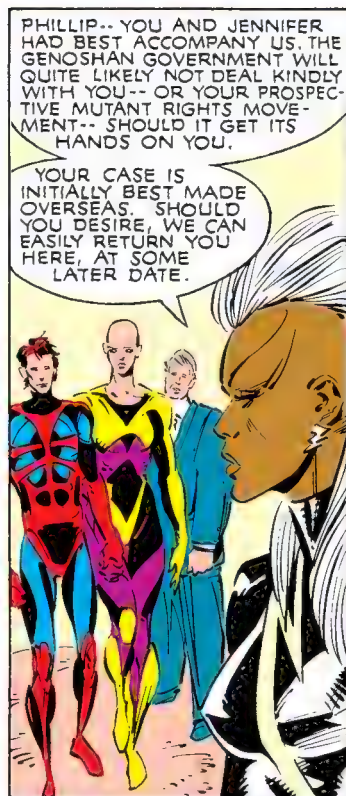
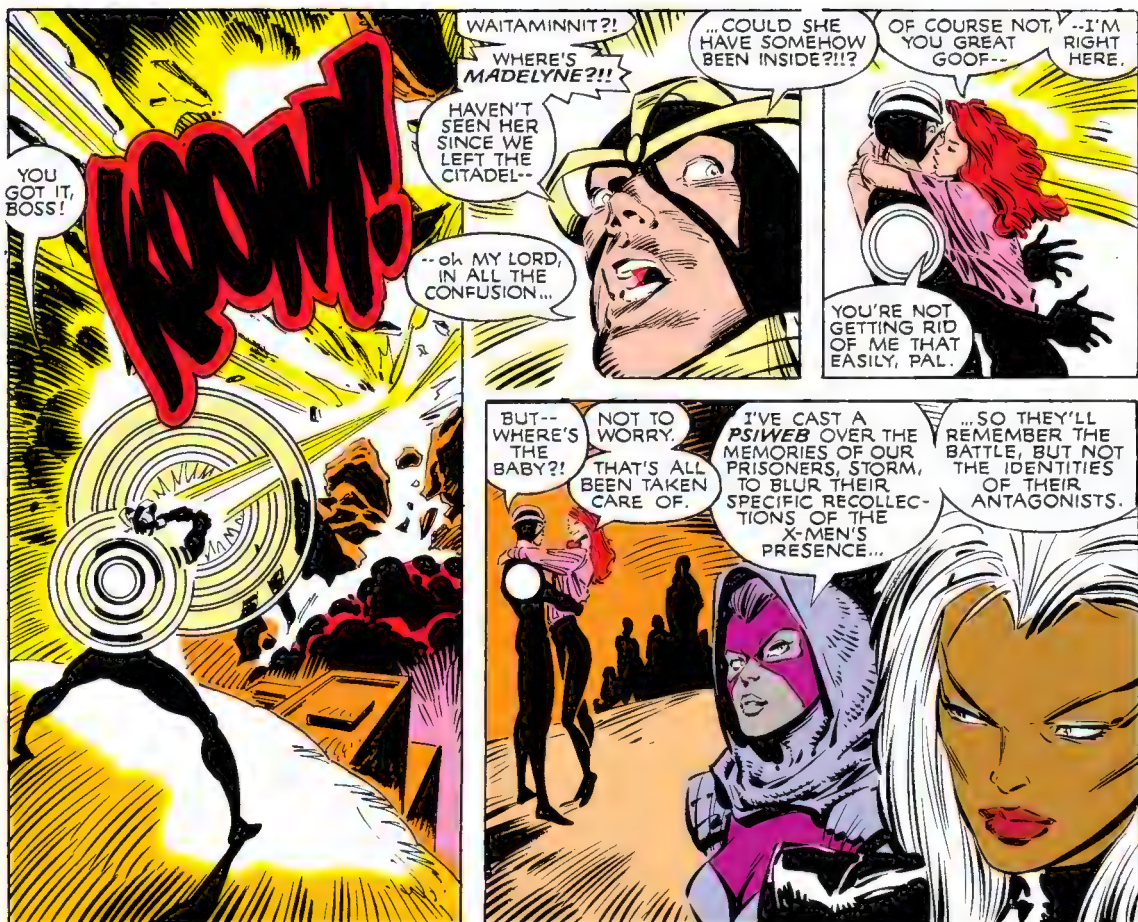
--LISTEN TO THE BOY!

HE IS ONE FUTURE...

...WE ARE THE OTHER.

AND IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT ABOUT WHAT THAT MEANS--

--HAVOK, THE CITADEL!



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AUTHORITY

THE NEW MUTANTS



LEVINS

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

YOU
GIVE ME
PERMISSION TO
GO INTO NEW
YORK, TA LILA'S
CONCERT...

...AN' AH
SWEAR AH
WON'T USE MAH
POWERS DURING
THE CONCERT...
OR ANY TIME
AH'M WITH LILA...
AT ALL.

YOU
HAVE **SAM**
GUTHRIE'S WORD
FOR THAT, SIR...
AN' A GUTHRIE
ALWAYS KEEPS
HIS...

PROMISE

writer: **LOUISE SIMONSON**-artist: **BRET BLEVINS**-letterer: **KEN BRUZENAK**
colorist: **GLYNIS OLIVER**-editor: **BOB HARRAS**-chief: **TOM DeFALCO**



YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I DON'T WANT YOU EXERCISING YOUR POWERS OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL GROUNDS...

...OR WITHOUT MY PERMISSION?

YESSIR.

THE MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT DEADLINE'S COMIN' UP, AN SINCE YOU DON'T WANT US TA REGISTER...

...CAUSE YOU THINK THE GOVERN-MENTS JUST TRYIN' TA LOCATE US GUYS WHO WERE BORN WITH POWERS...

...SO THEY CAN LIMIT US MUTANTS, OR USE US... AN' YOU'D JUST AS SOON WE WEREN'T RECOGNIZED...



OR KILLED SAM, DOING SOMETHING DANGEROUS AND STUPID, AS YOUR CLASSMATE, DOUG RAMSEY, WAS KILLED.

ALL RIGHT, YOU MAY GO TO THE CONCERT, BUT I TRUST YOU TO KEEP YOUR WORD.



TA THE LETTER!

YAHOO!



UH...AH GUESS AH DIDN'T HAVE YOUR PERMISSION TO USE MY POWER THEN, RIGHT SIR?

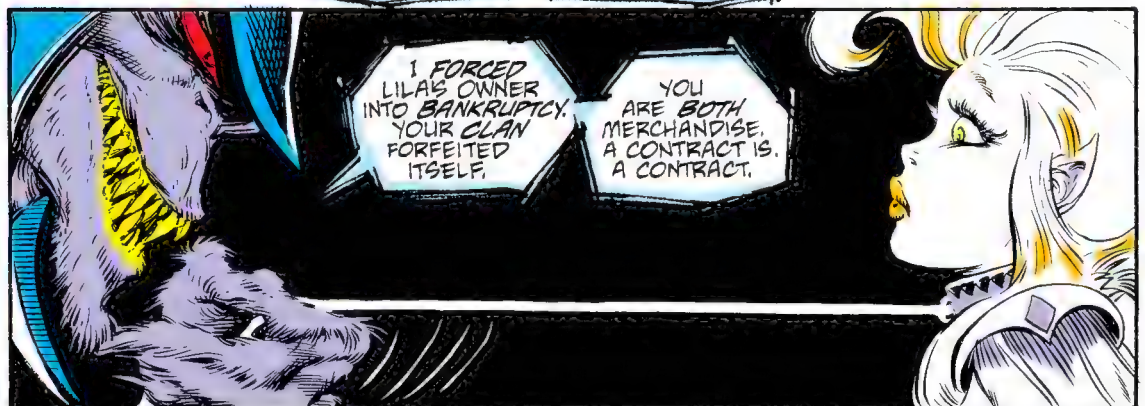
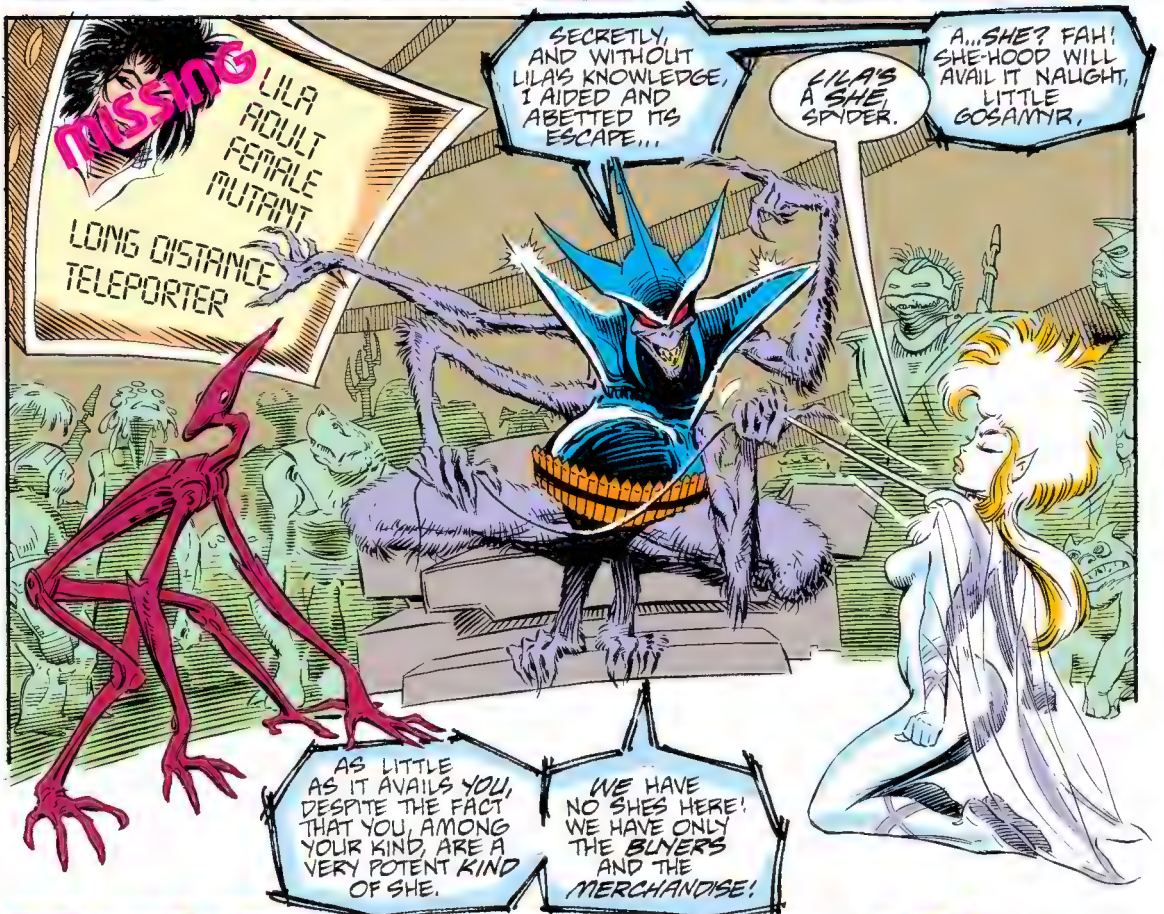
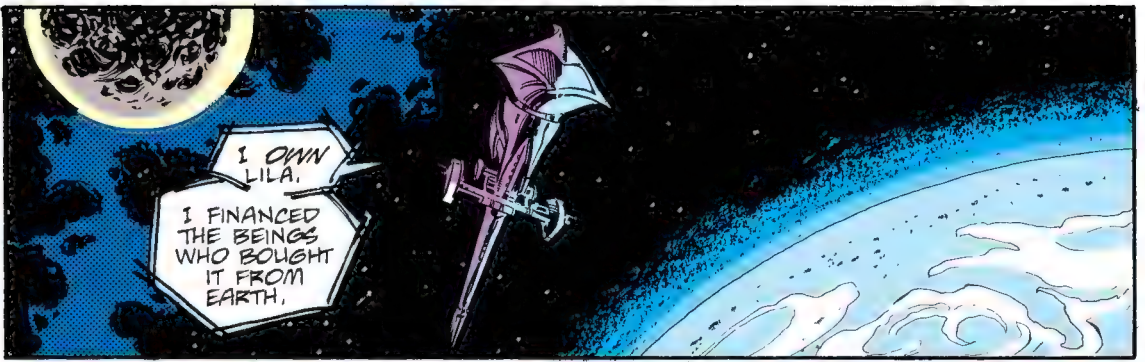
EXACTLY.

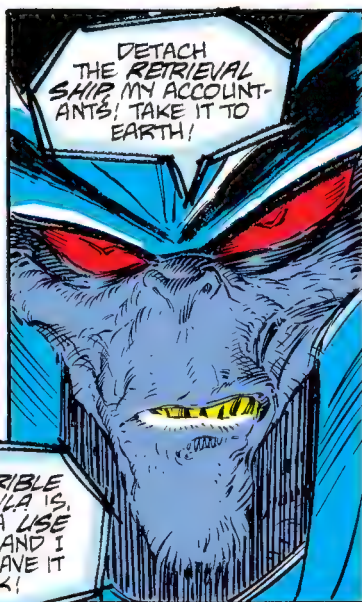
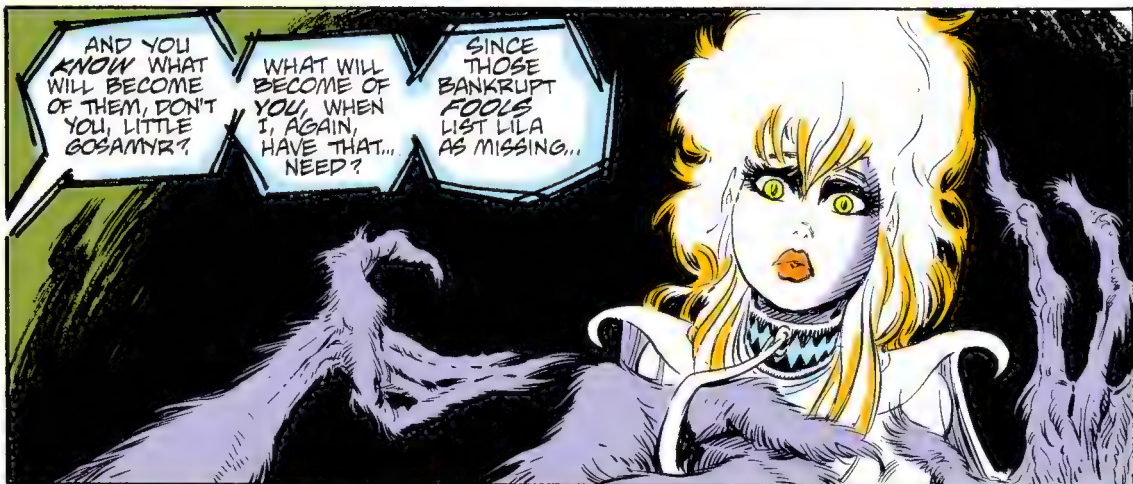


IT'S CHEERING TO SEE THAT MY STUDENTS ACTUALLY SEEM TO BE CAPABLE OF LEARNING.

ENJOY YOUR CONCERT, SAM. ENJOY SEEING LILA.

IN TIME, YOU'LL COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT I AM RIGHT, AND THAT I ACT IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS.







"...AND BRING IT BACK TO ME!"

SAM! DARLING!

I'M SO GLAD THAT YOU COULD MAKE IT.

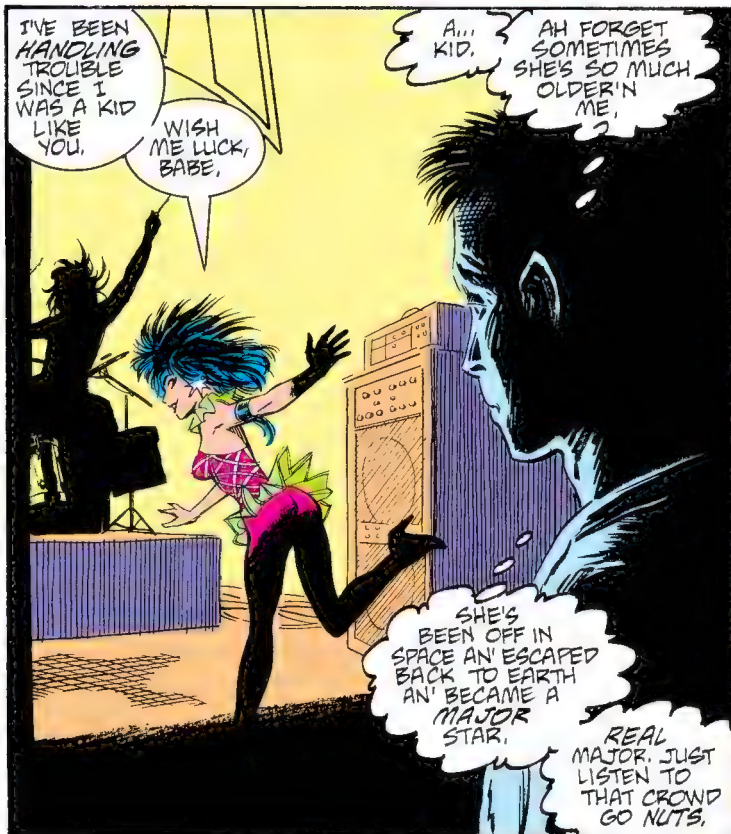
IT WAS A CLOSE ONE, LILA. AH HAD TA PROMISE MAGNETO AH WOULDN'T USE MAH POWERS DURING THE CONCERT...



"...SO DON'T YOU GO DOIN' ANYTHING WHERE AH MIGHT BE TEMPTED, OKAY?"

OH, POOH. SAM, DARLING, YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY.

IF THERE'S TROUBLE, I CAN HANDLE IT. I LIKE TROUBLE.



I'VE BEEN HANDLING TROUBLE SINCE I WAS A KID LIKE YOU.

WISH ME LUCK, BABE.

A... KID.

AH FORGET SOMETIMES SHE'S SO MUCH OLDER'N ME.

SHE'S BEEN OFF IN SPACE AN' ESCAPED BACK TO EARTH AN' BECAME A MAJOR STAR.

REAL MAJOR. JUST LISTEN TO THAT CROWD GO NUTS.



AH WONDER JUST HOW LONG SHE'S GONNA PUT UP WITH "A KID..."

"WHO HAS TA GET PERMISSION TA EVEN VISIT HER...AN' WHO HASTA PAY SUCH A HIGH PRICE TA DO IT."

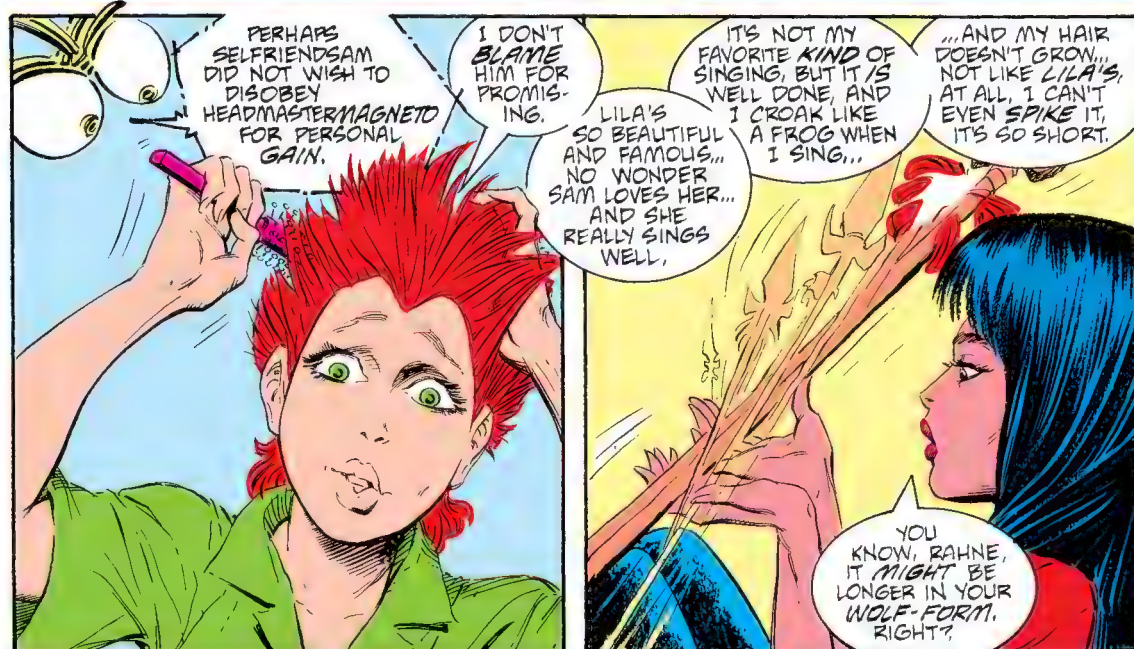
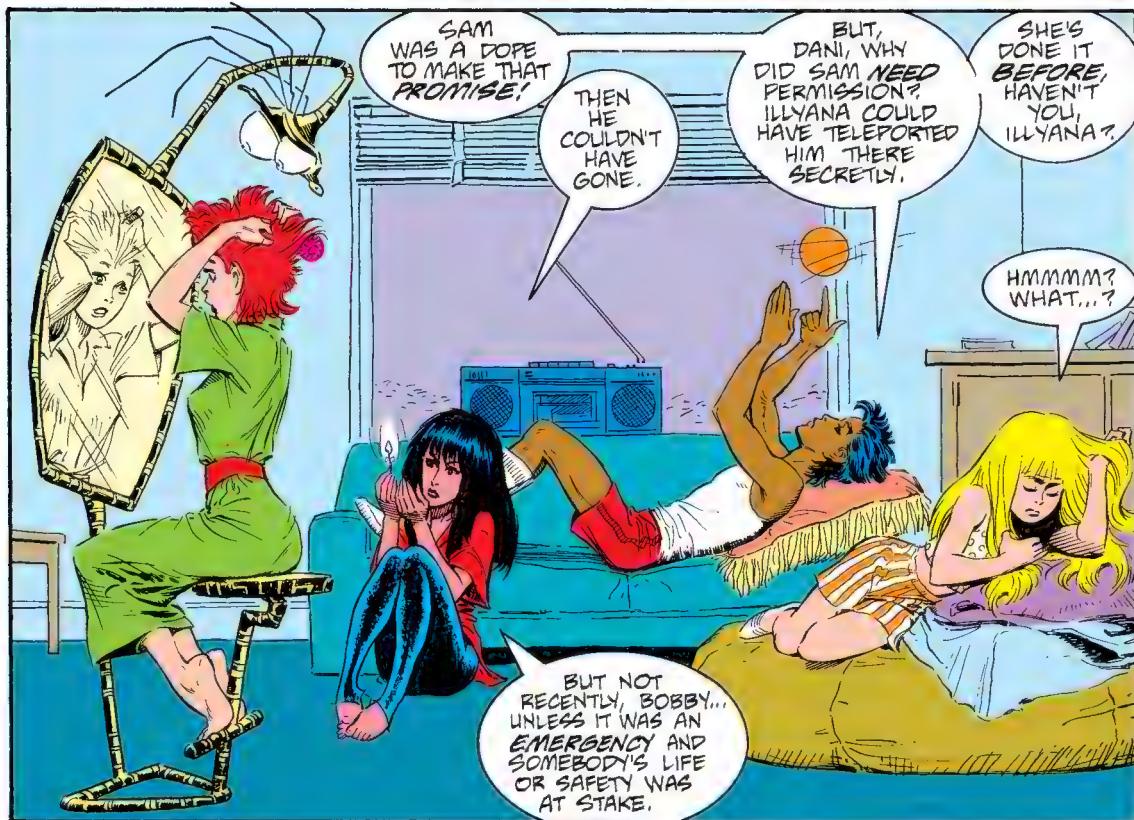
The Glitz Pool

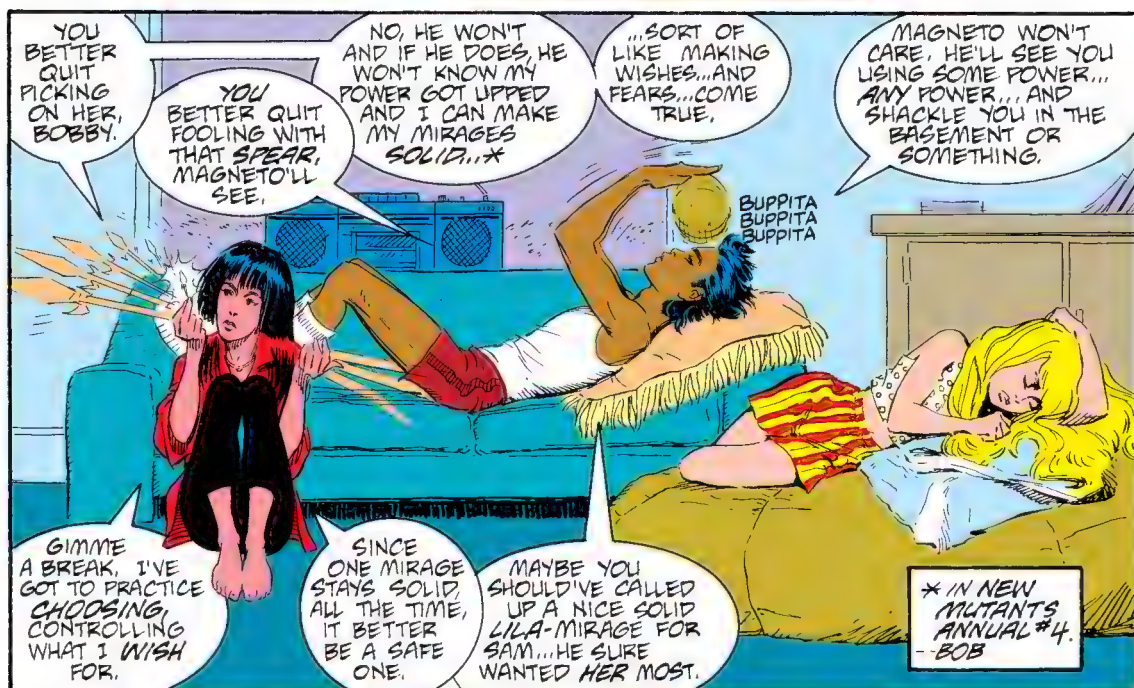
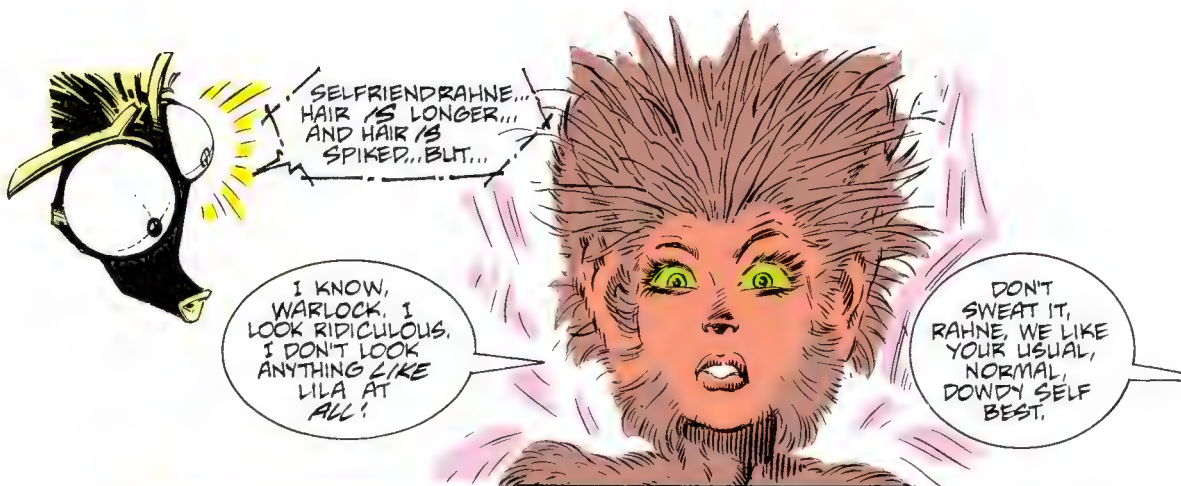
TONIGHT... LILA CHENEY...

571

BALDO SMUDGE

SP16





WHILE MILES
ABOVE...



...Spider...
SPIDER...?

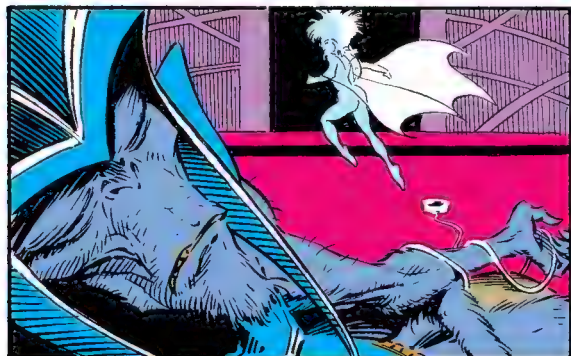


HE'S
ASLEEP!



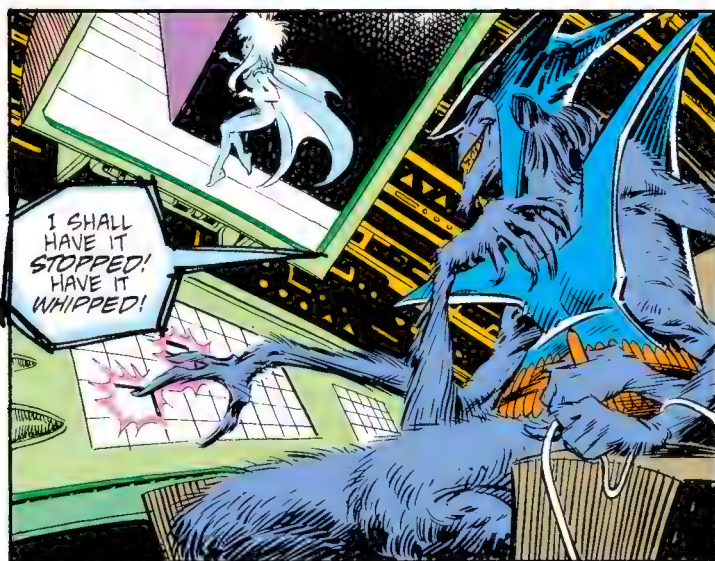
NOW'S
MY
CHANCE...

FWIP!



HUMPH!

WHAT
IS IT UP TO--?
IT SEEKS TO
STEAL
ITSELF!

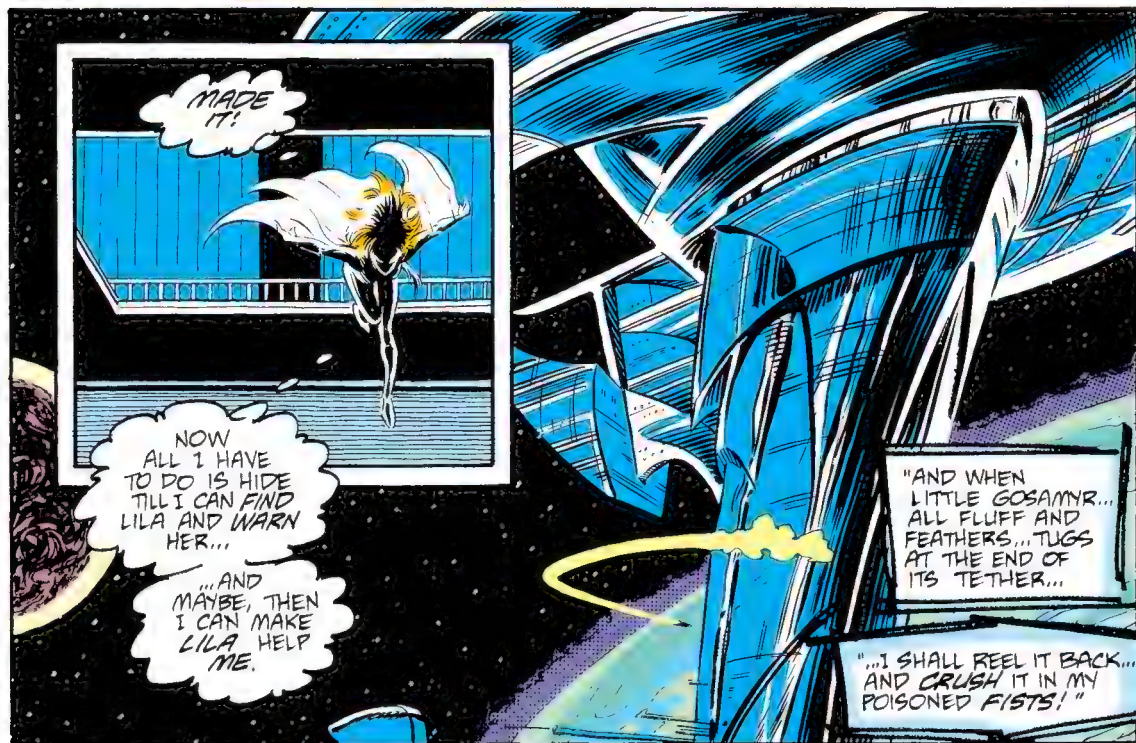
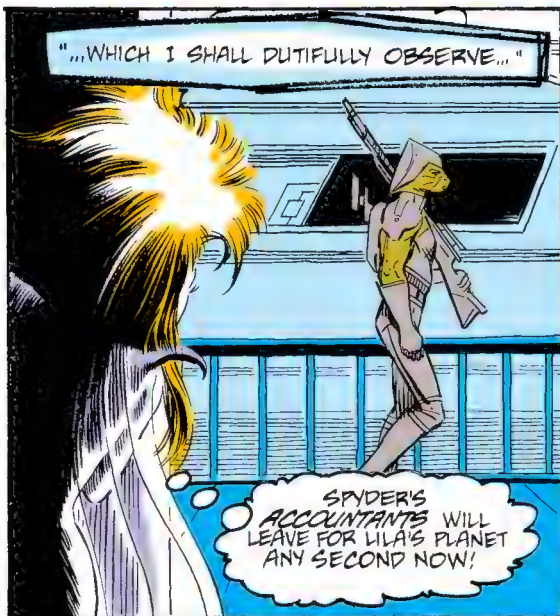


I SHALL
HAVE IT
STOPPED!
HAVE IT
WHIPPED!



PUNISHED...!

**Sniff
Sniff
Sniff**



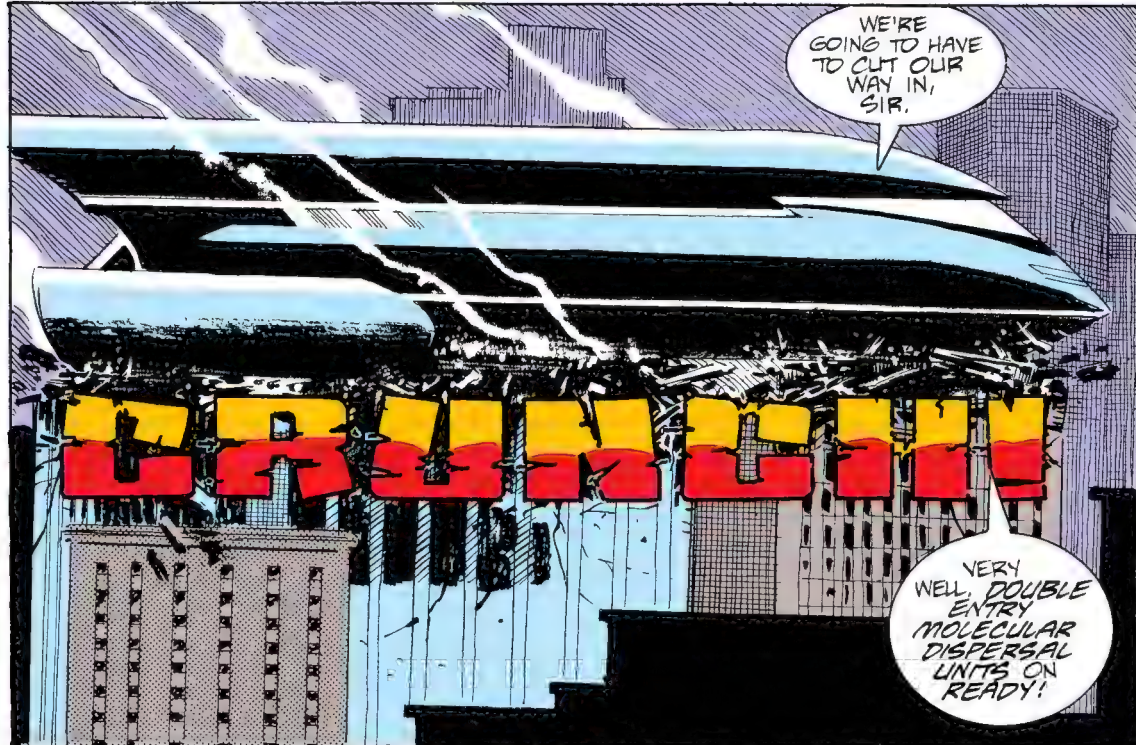
SOON...

BLIND SPOT
APPARATUS FULLY
FUNCTIONAL! THERE
IS NO INDICATION THAT
THOSE BELOW REGISTER
OUR APPROACH!

EXCELLENT!
HAVE YOU
TRACED LILAS
BIO-HARMONIC
PROFILE?

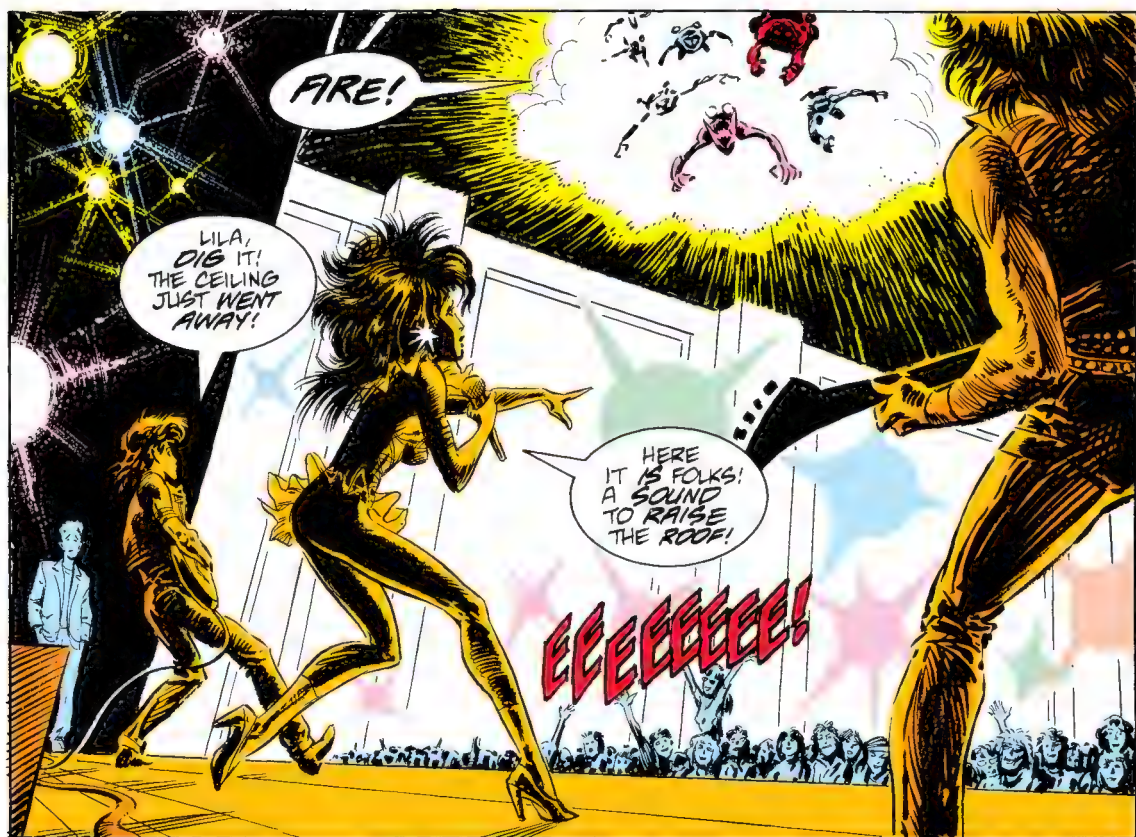
GETTING
A READING...
THERE BELOW!
WITHIN THAT SHINY
BLACK LITTLE
BUILDING!

EXCELLENT!
LAND...AND PREPARE
FOR DISEMBARKA-
TION AND
RETRIEVAL!



WE'RE
GOING TO HAVE
TO CUT OUR
WAY IN,
SIR.

VERY
WELL, DOUBLE
ENTRY
MOLECULAR
DISPERSAL
UNITS ON
READY!





AH CAN'T BELIEVE IT! SHE... AND HER BAND DON'T MISS A BEAT!

THEY'RE ACTUALLY WORKIN' THESE MONSTERS INTO THE ACT!

AN' AH PROMISED NOT TA USE MY POWERS! AH SHOULD'A KNOWN BETTER...



...BUT IF AH DIDN'T PROMISE... AH WOULDN'T BE HERE AT ALL!

NOT THAT SHE SEEMS TA NEED MAH HELP! SHE'S DOIN' JUST FINE!



CLANG

Don't look SO MISERABLE, Sam. My band and I can handle these creatures... whatever they are.

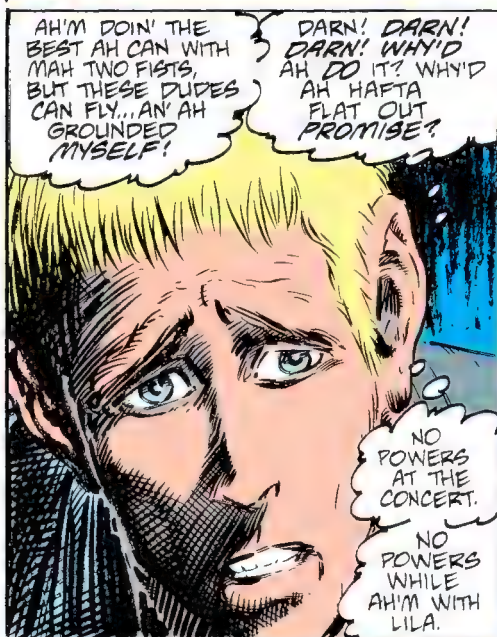
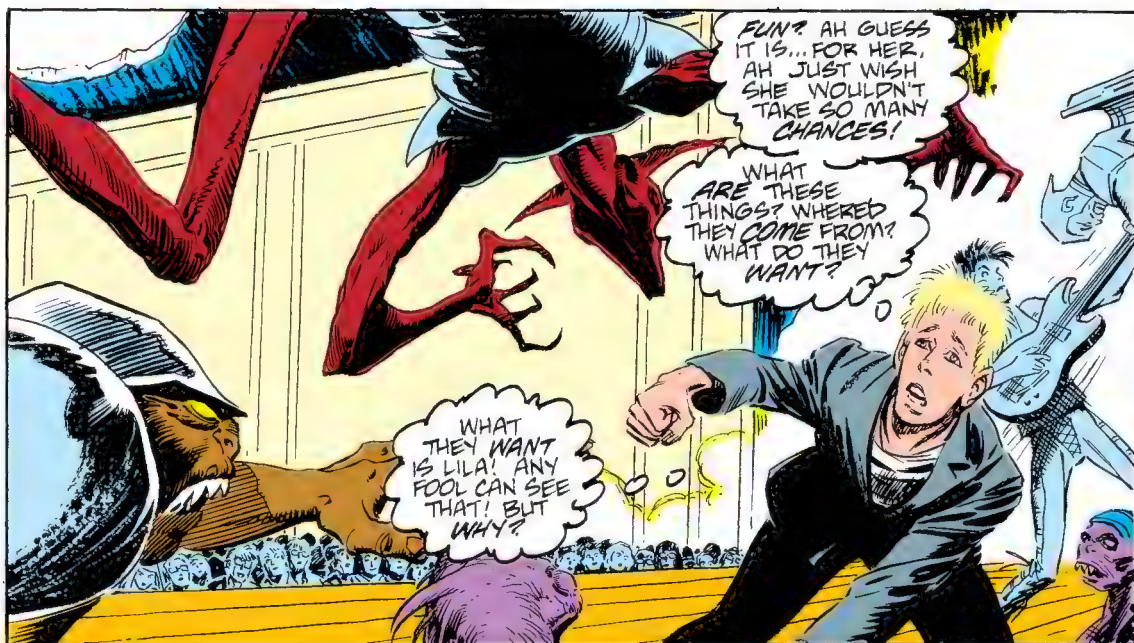


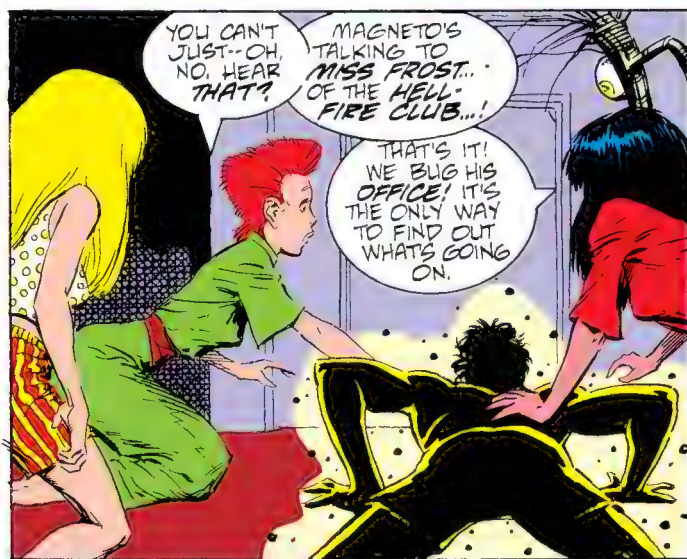
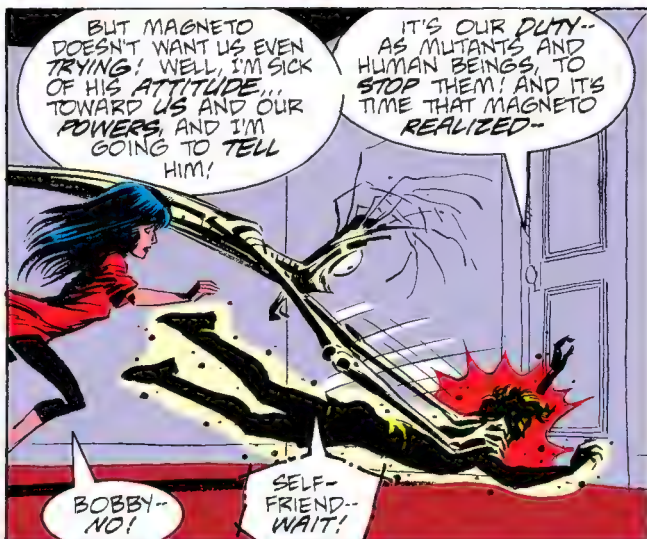
And if things get too bad, I'll just teleport us ALL away!

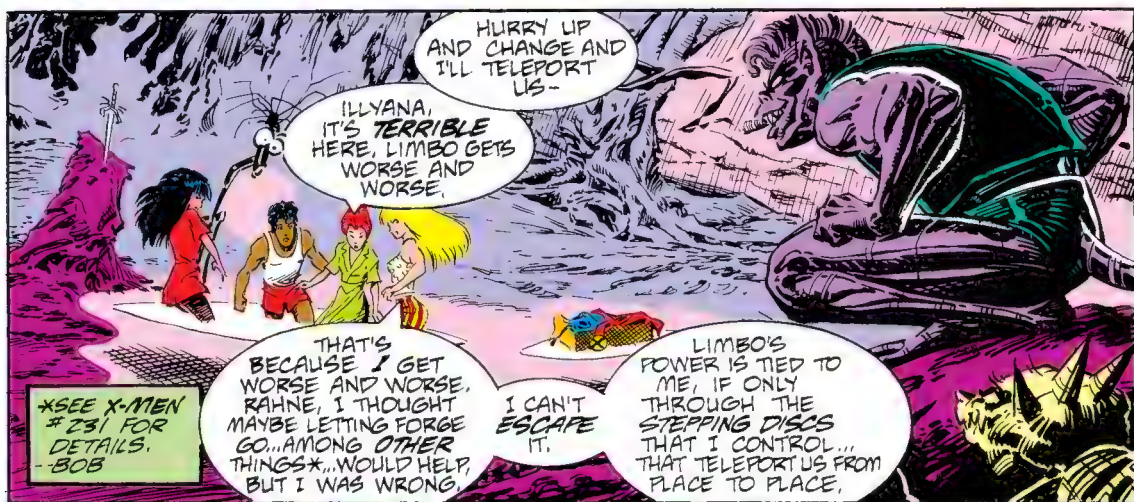
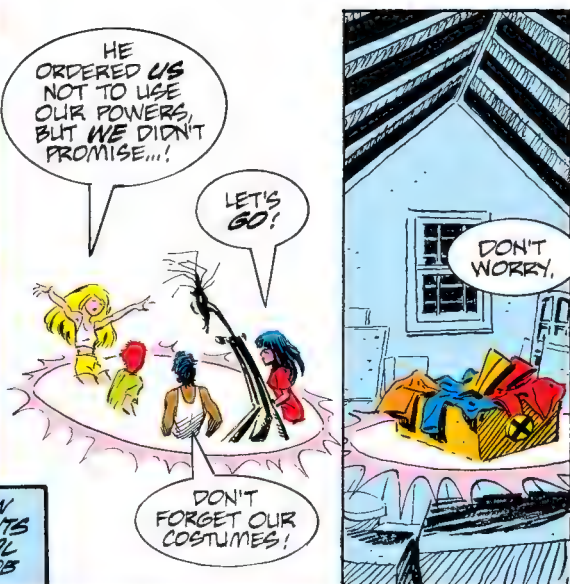
But not YET, babes! It'd spoil all the FUN!

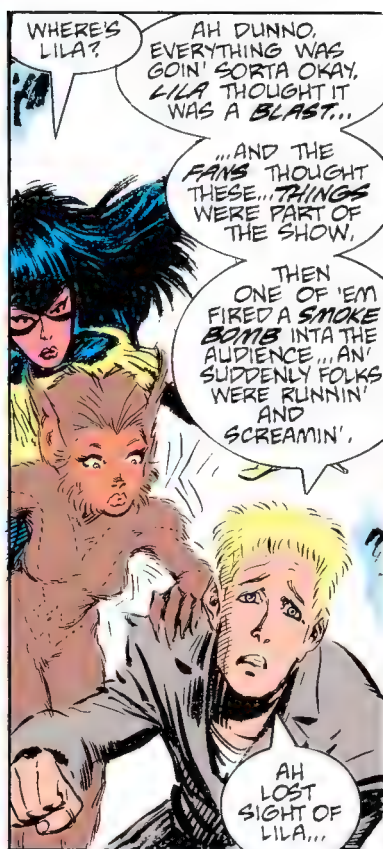
LILA

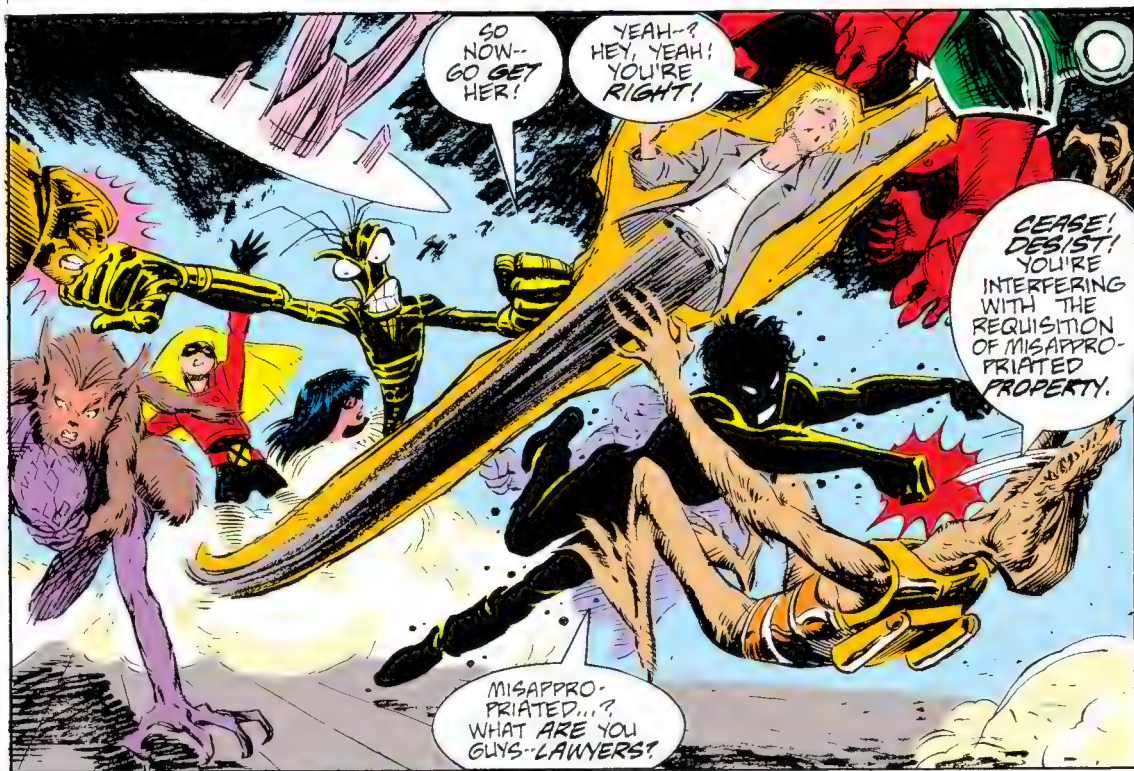
LILA













YE!!!!

THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF?

I GUESS YOU'VE GOT GOOD REASON!



MIRAGE, WHAT IS THAT THING?

I DON'T KNOW.

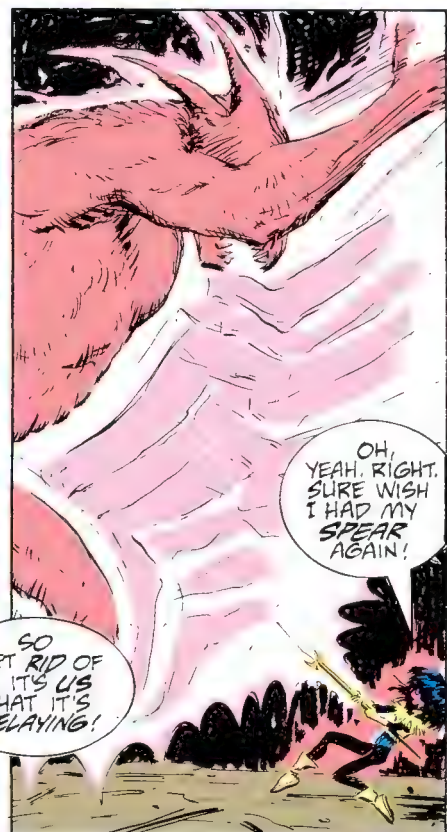
BUT I THOUGHT MAYBE IT WOULD TAKE OUT THE ALIENS WHILE WE WENT AFTER LILA.



GOOD THOUGHT, BUT IT SEEMS MORE INTERESTED IN THRASHING US!

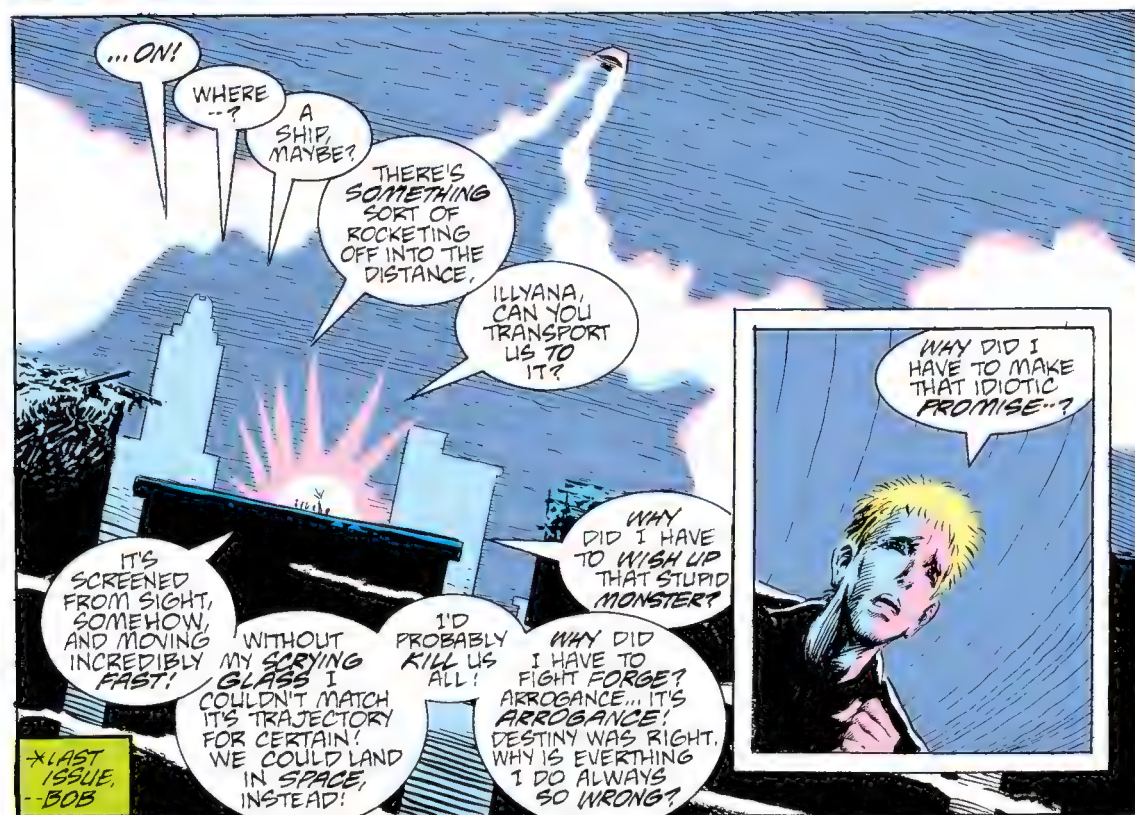
CRAASH!

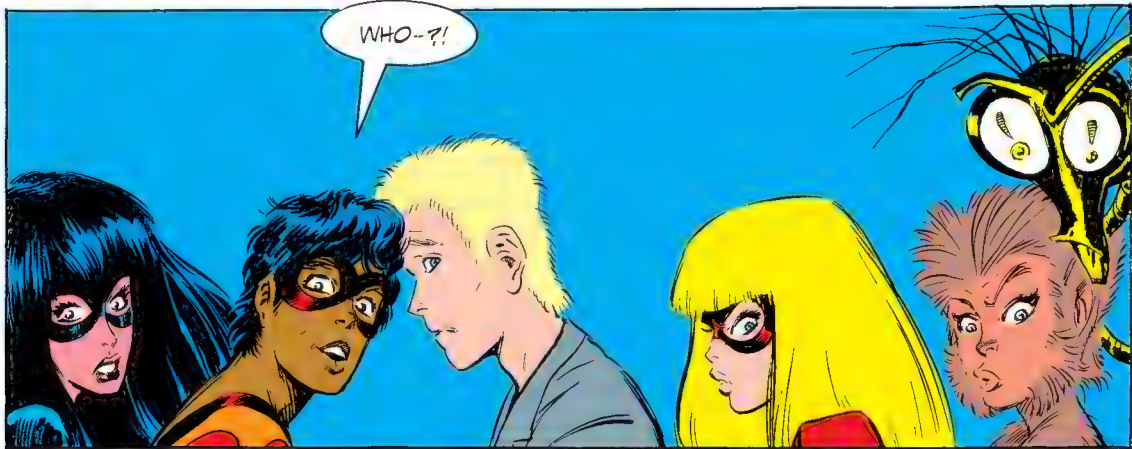
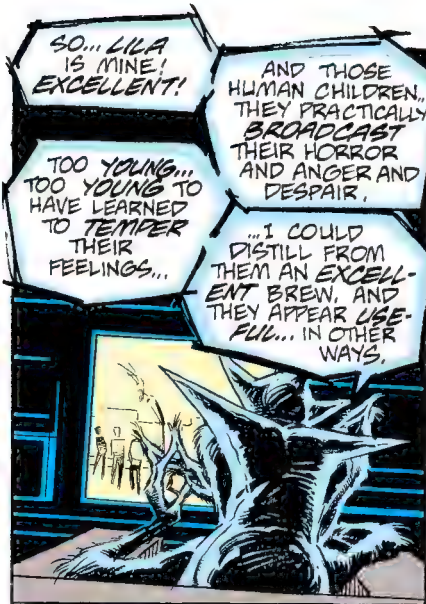
YEAH... TELL ME ABOUT IT

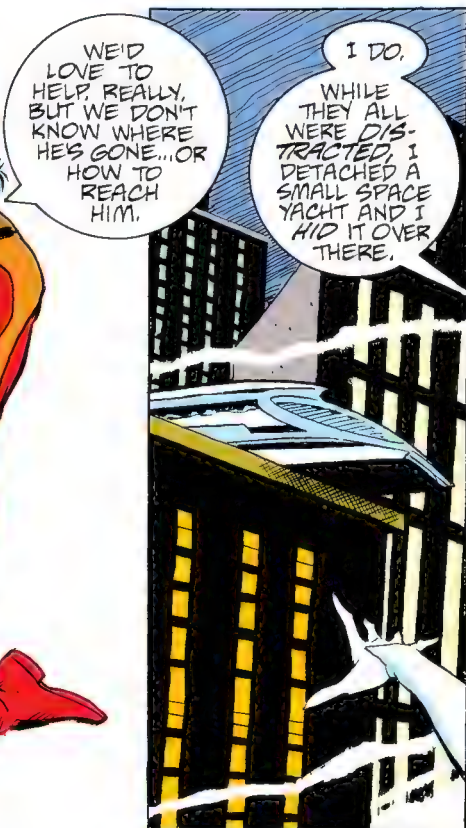


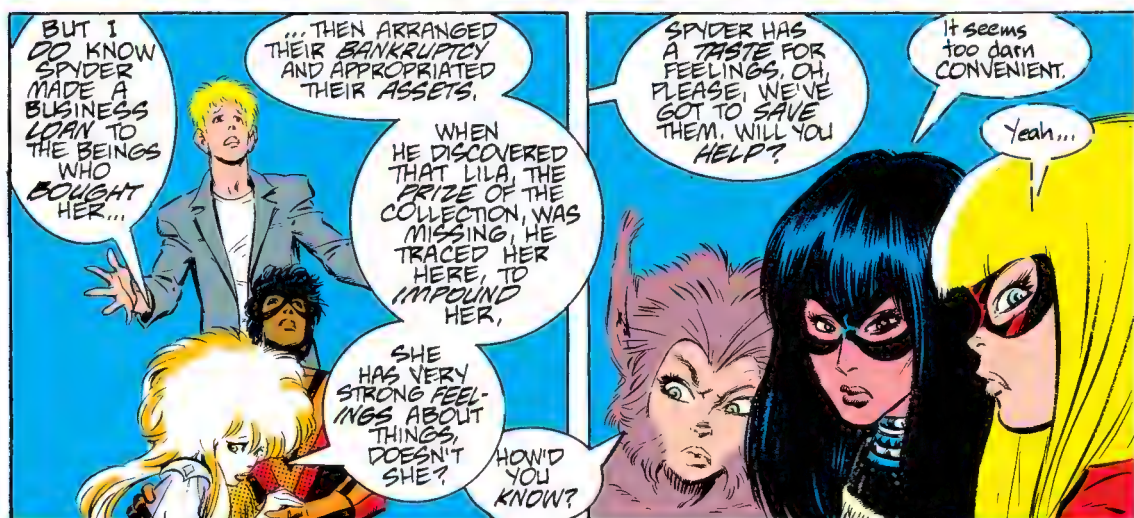
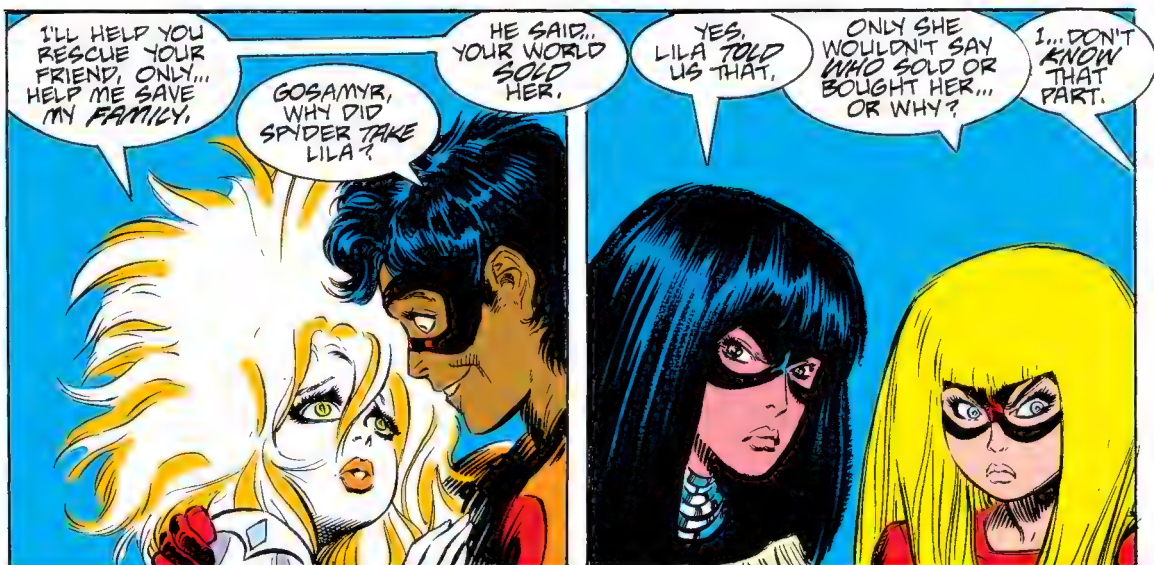
OH, YEAH. RIGHT. SURE WISH I HAD MY SPEAR AGAIN!

SO GET RID OF IT. IT'S US THAT IT'S DELAYING!









WHAT ARE FEELINGS, BUT THE ILLUSIONS WE LIVE BY?

SHATTERED ILLUSIONS!

DON'T MISS A SHARD OF IT!!!



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THE NEW MUTANTS

GOSAMYR
COMES
A'CALLING



LIMBO, AN ELDritch DIMENSION RULED BY A WAYWARD WITCH-CHILD WHO, NOW, HOVERS OVER AN INVERTED PENTAGRAM, TRYING WITH ALL HER HEART AND SOUL TO FIT TOGETHER THE SHATTERED PIECES OF HER LIFE...

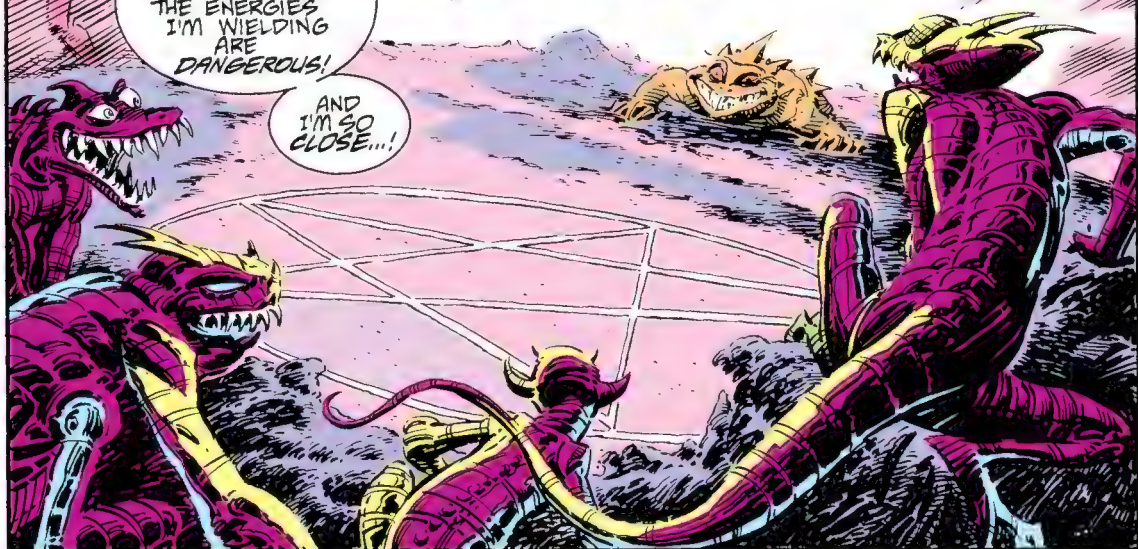
Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

ICU SHIP!

HOW'S
IT COMIN'
ILLYANA? YOU
GONNA GET
THE SCRYIN'
GLASS BACK
TOGETHER?

YOU
HAVE EYES,
DON'T YOU, SAM?
BUT KEEP BACK,
THE ENERGIES
I'M WIELDING
ARE
DANGEROUS!

AND
I'M SO
CLOSE!!!



Louise SIMONSON-**Bret BLEVINS**-**Ken BRUZENAK**
writer artist letterer
Glynis OLIVER **Bob HARRAS**-**Tom DeFALCO**
colorist editor chief



CLIK!

THERE!

THE GLASS
IS REVEALING
WHAT WE'RE
AFTER... THE
SHIP THAT
KIDNAPED
LILYA!

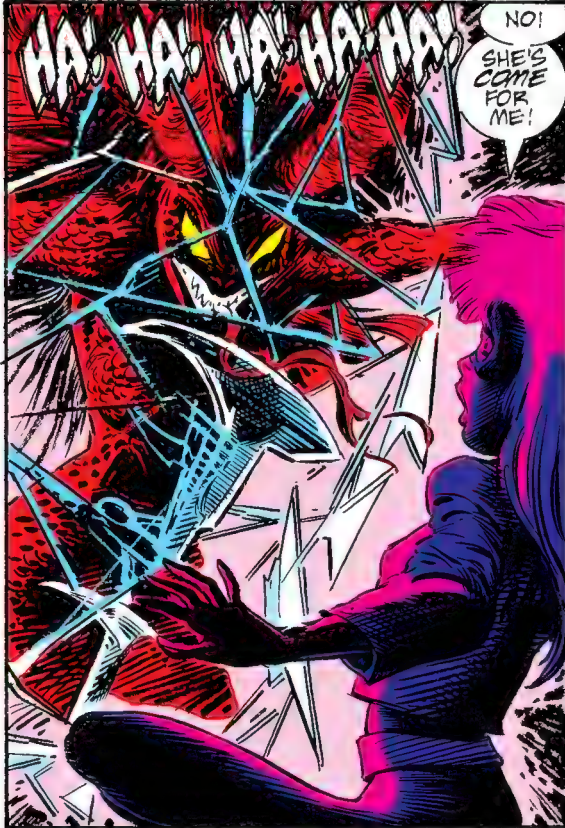
SHE
DID
IT!



YES!
THAT IS
SPYDER'S
SHIP!

BUT
WHERE'S
HE TAKIN'
HER,
ILLYANA?
CAN YOU
TELEPORT
US THERE
--?

SAM,
LOOK! THE
IMAGE IS
CHANGING!
WHAT--?



HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

NO!

SHE'S
COME
FOR
ME!



IT'S YOU,
MISTRESS!

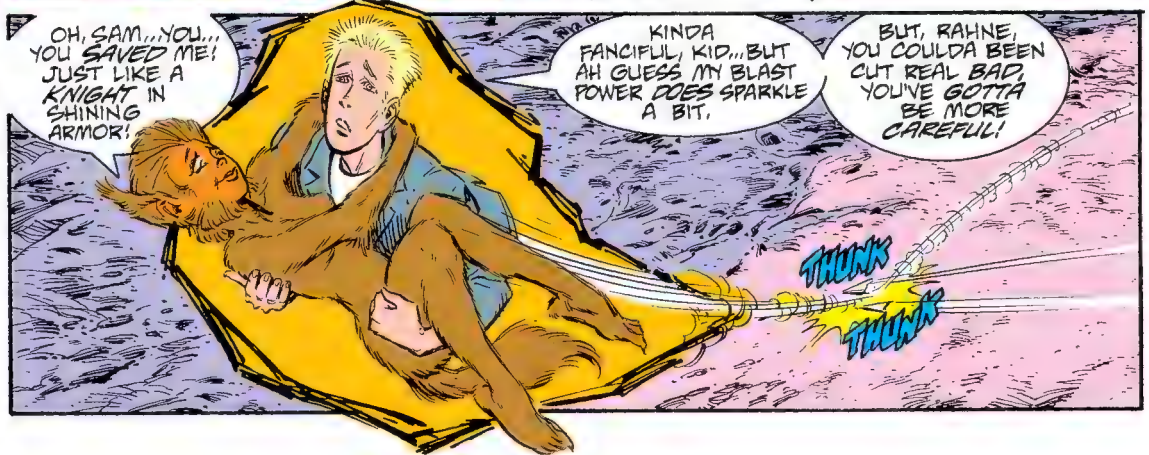
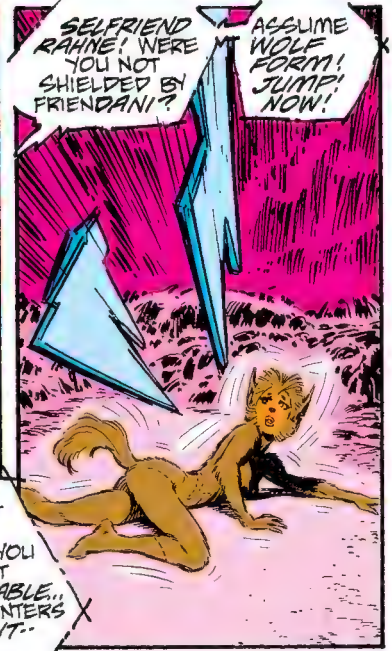
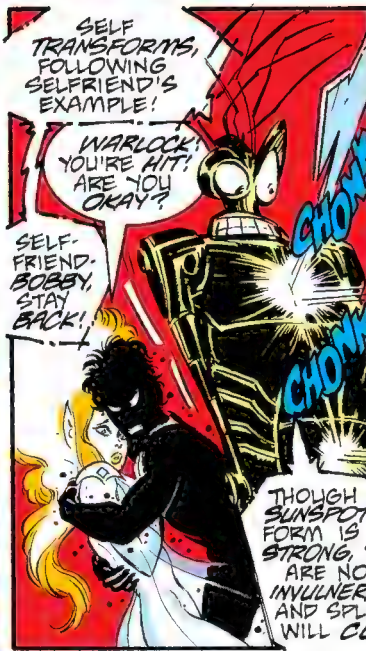
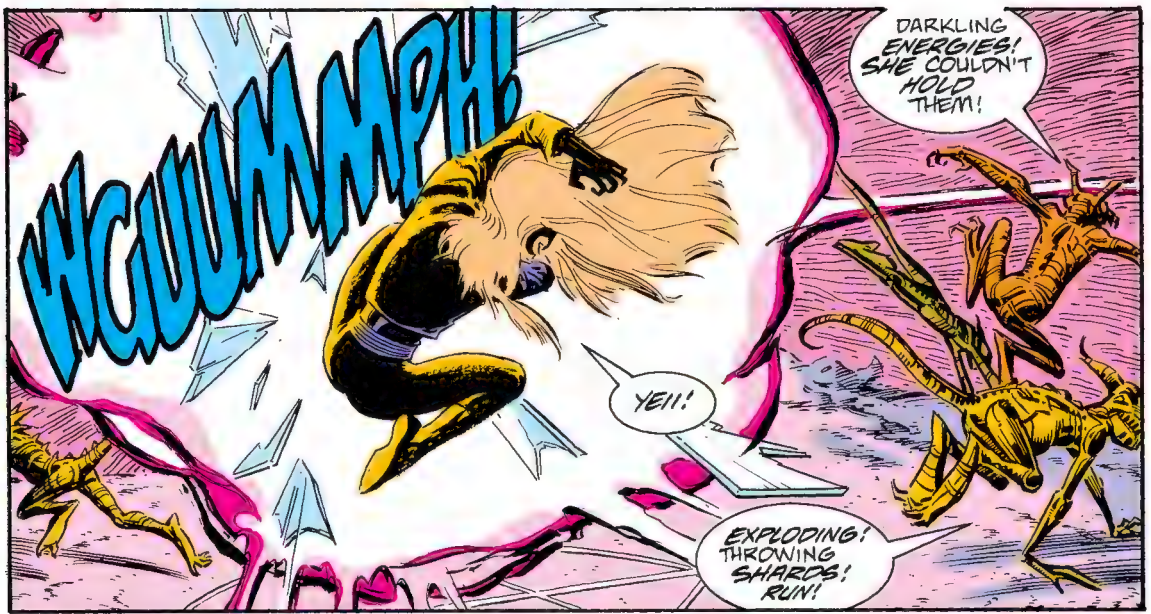
YOUR
DESTINY!

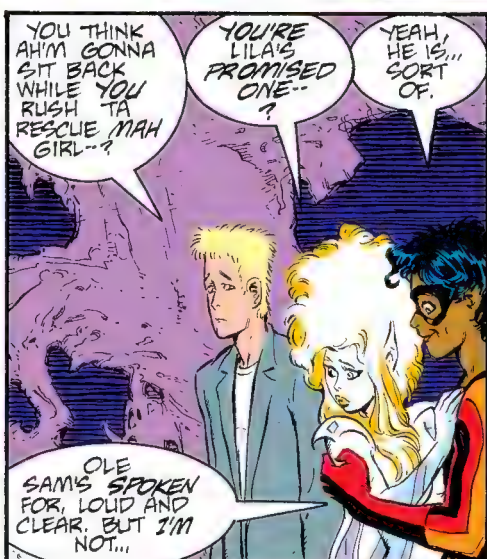
WHAT
YOU MUST
BECOME!

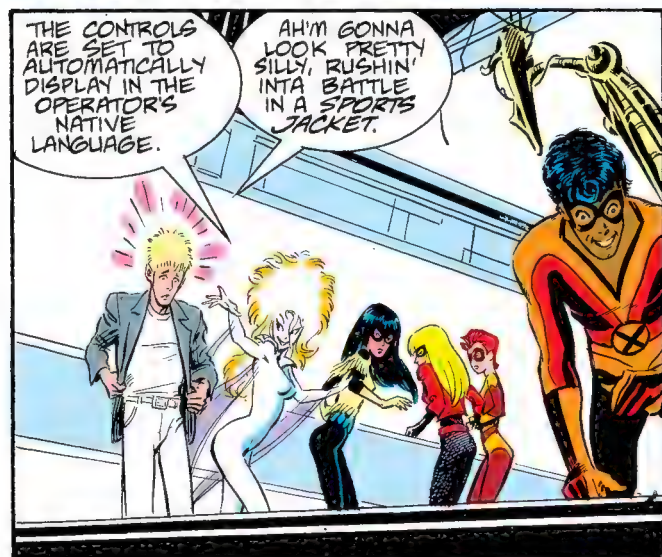
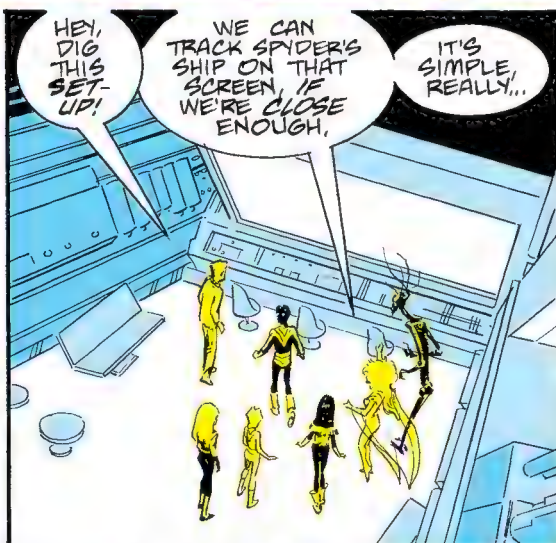
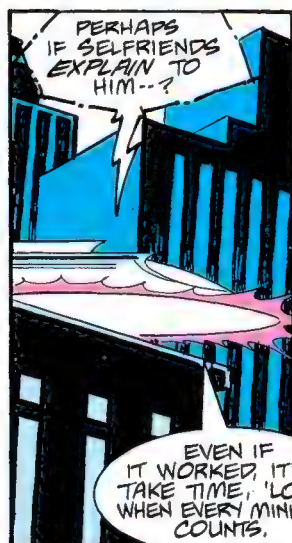
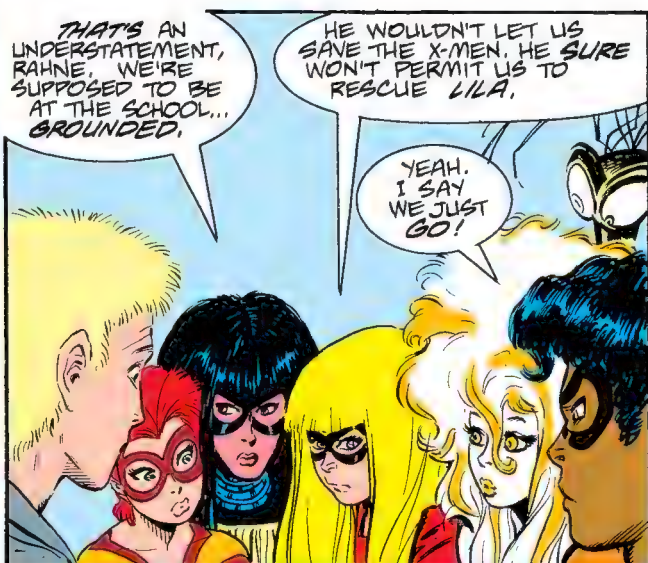
STAY
HERE
WITH US
IN
LIMBO!

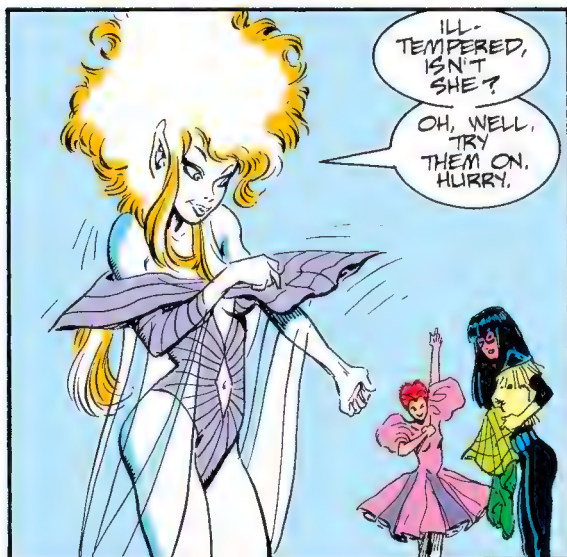
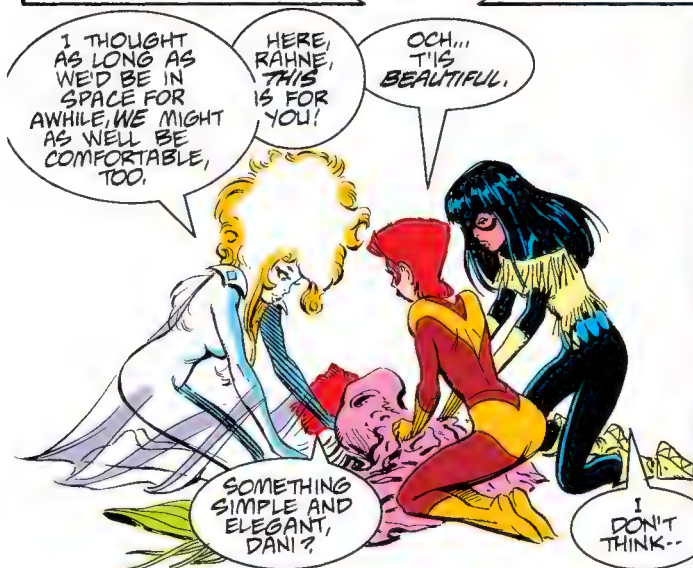
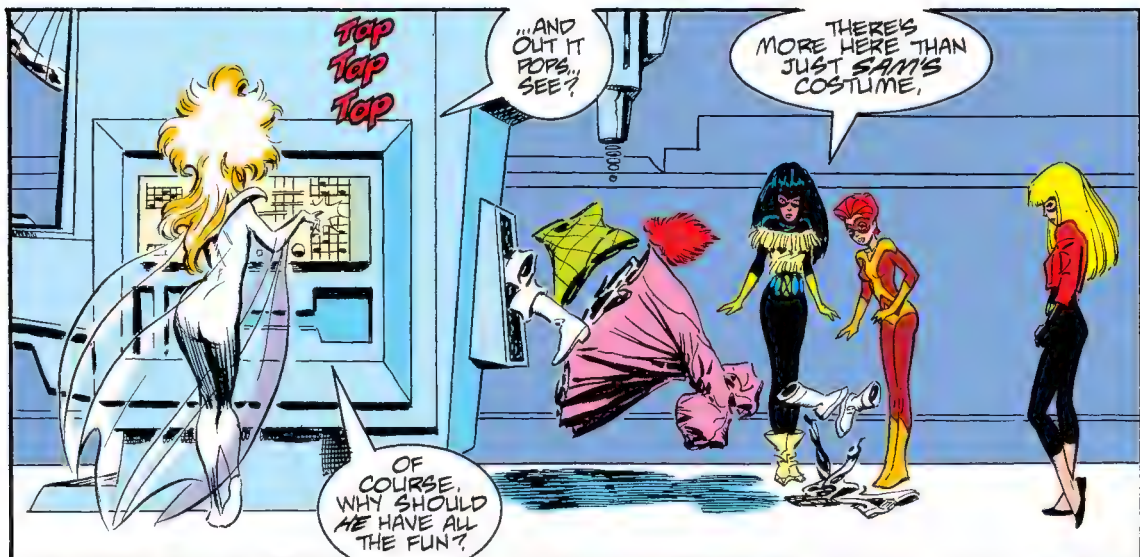
RULE
US
FOR
EVER!

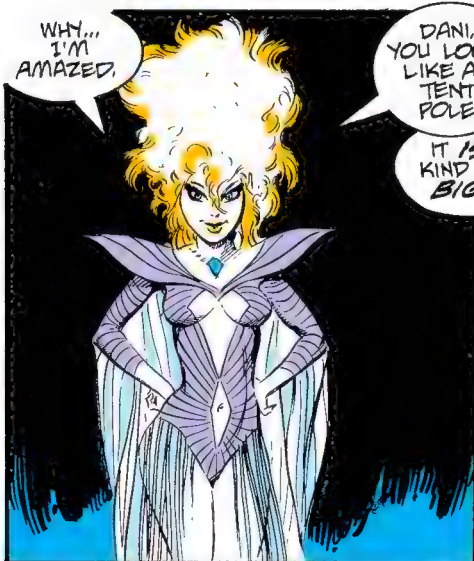
WE
LOVE
YOU
LIKE
THIS!







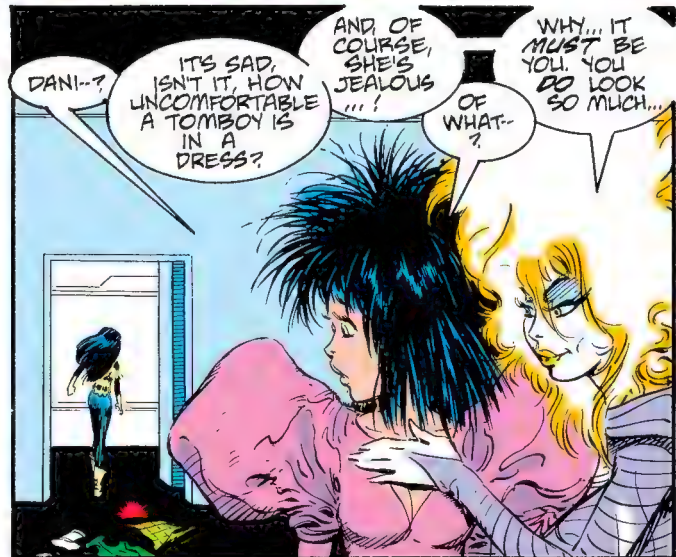
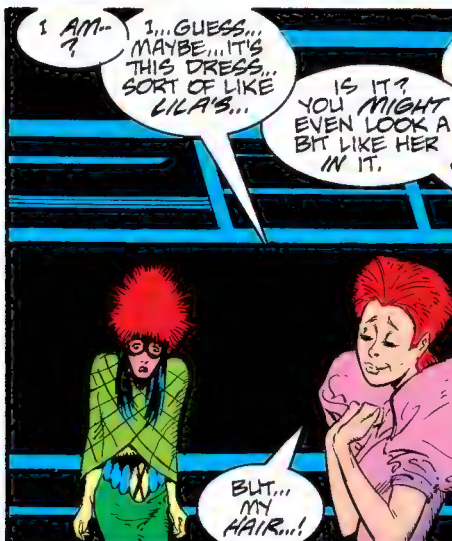
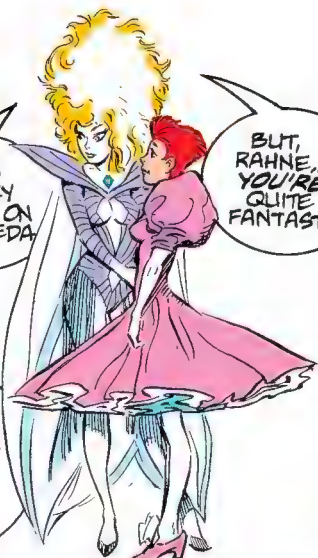


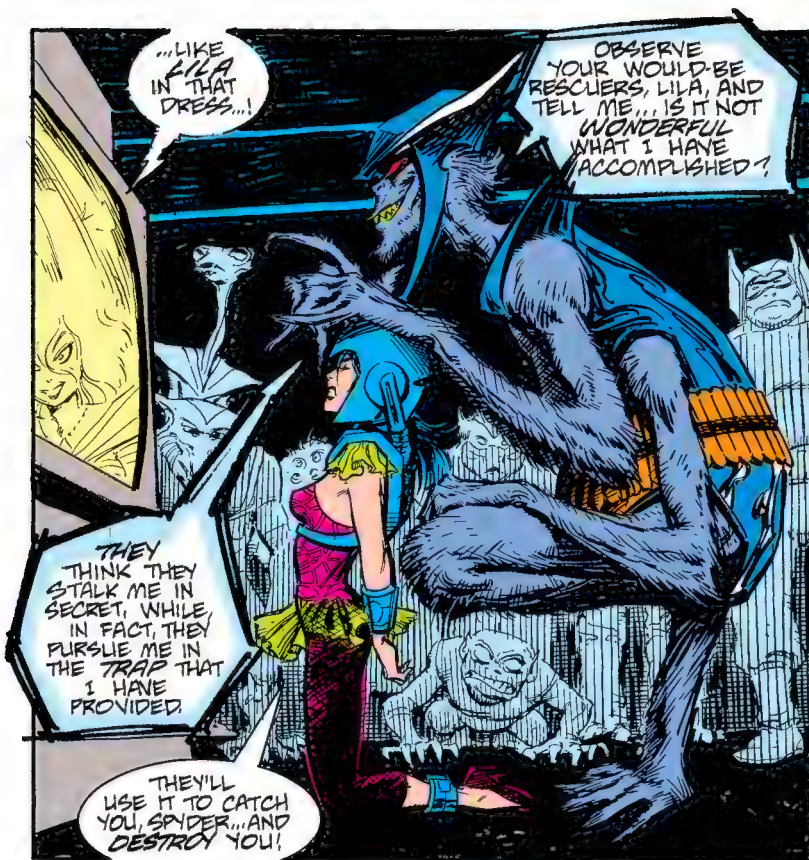


DANI... YOU LOOK LIKE A TENT POLE.
IT IS KIND OF BIG...!



I GUESS... YOU JUST DON'T HAVE THE FLAIR TO CARRY OFF A DRAMATIC FASHION STATEMENT.





...LIKE
LILA
IN THAT
DRESS...!!

OBSERVE
YOUR WOULD-BE
RESCUERS, LILA, AND
TELL ME... IS IT NOT
WONDERFUL
WHAT I HAVE
ACCOMPLISHED?

THAT I DOUBT,
GOSAMNR IS WITH THEM...
AND IT IS **GOSAMNR'S**
NATURE TO DESTROY.

YOU SEE, THE
SHE'S OF **GOSAMNR'S** RACE
EMIT ENERGY WHICH INTEN-
SIFIES THE **PASSIONS**
OF THOSE AROUND
THEM.

PASSIONS... WHICH
I WILL TAKE AND TWIST
AND USE.

THEY
THINK THEY
STALK ME IN
SECRET, WHILE
IN FACT, THEY
PURSUE ME IN
THE TRAP THAT
I HAVE
PROVIDED

THEY'LL
USE IT TO CATCH
YOU, SPYDER...AND
DESTROY YOU!



AND
HOW DOES
GOSAMNR
AFFECT
YOU?

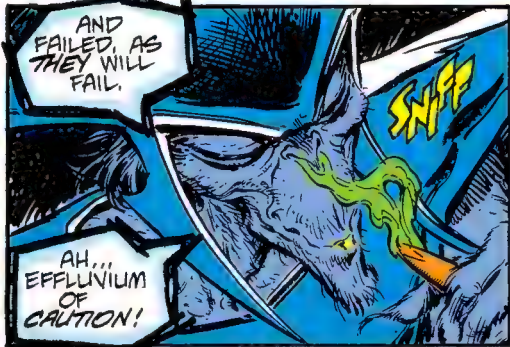
NOT AT ALL, MY DEAR.
MINE IS AN **INTELLECTUAL**
RACE...WITHOUT THE **NATURAL**
EMOTIONS THAT BUFFET
OTHERS,

EXCEPT
FOR **GREED**.

AH... **BREED**.
YOU SOUGHT
TO **ESCAPE**
MY **GREED**.
DID YOU
NOT?

AND
FAILED, AS
THEY WILL
FAIL.

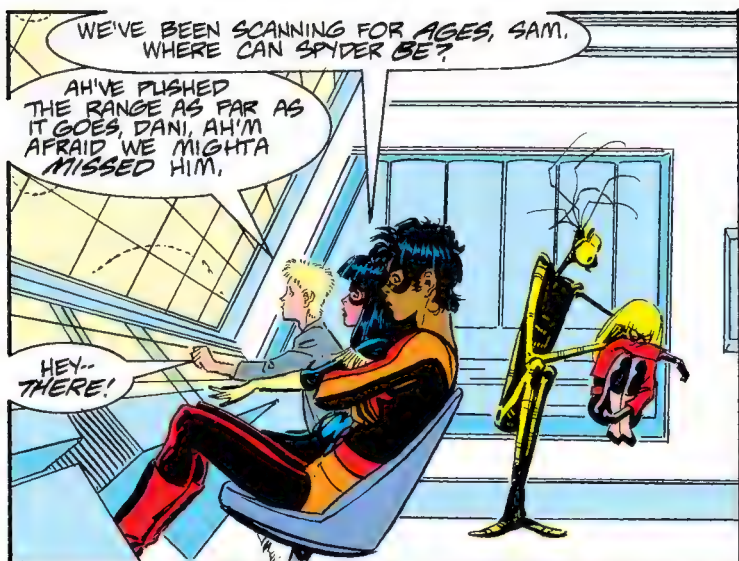
AH...
EFFLUVIUM
OF
CAUTION!



I MUST
GIVE THEM
TIME TO
FAIL.

AND
GOSAMNR
TIME TO DO
WHAT SHE
DOES
BEST!





WE'VE BEEN SCANNING FOR AGES, SAM. WHERE CAN SPYDER BE?

AH I'VE PUSHED THE RANGE AS FAR AS IT GOES, DANI. AH I'M AFRAID WE MIGHTA MISSED HIM.

HEY-THERE!



THAT'S GOT TO BE SPYDER'S SHIP!

GIVE ME THE CONTROLS! WE'VE GOT TO GET AFTER IT, PRONTO!

CHILL OUT, DANI. AH CAN HANDLE THAT!



WHAT'S WITH YOU, ANYWAY, DANI?

YOU SOUND LIKE THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST.

WHEN YOU SCOWL LIKE THAT, YOU LOOK LIKE HER, TOO!

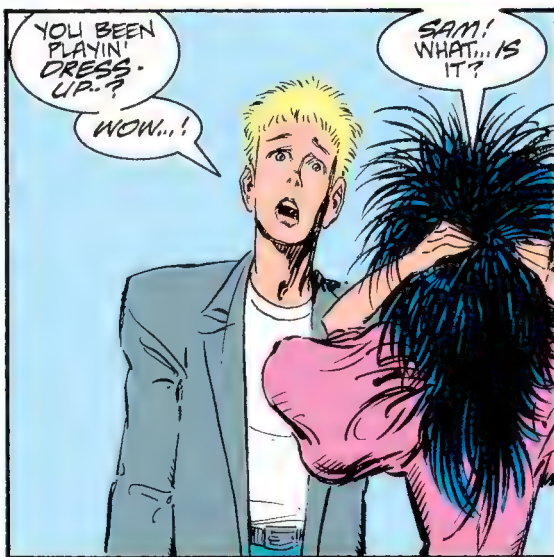
A-HEM! TA-DA!

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

WELL, WELL, WELL.



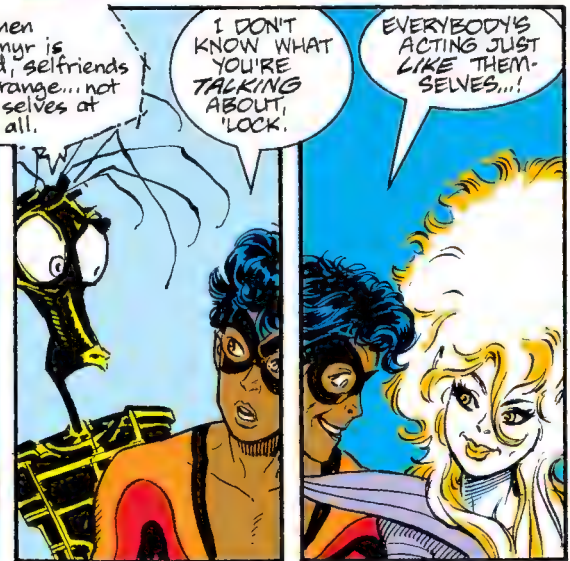
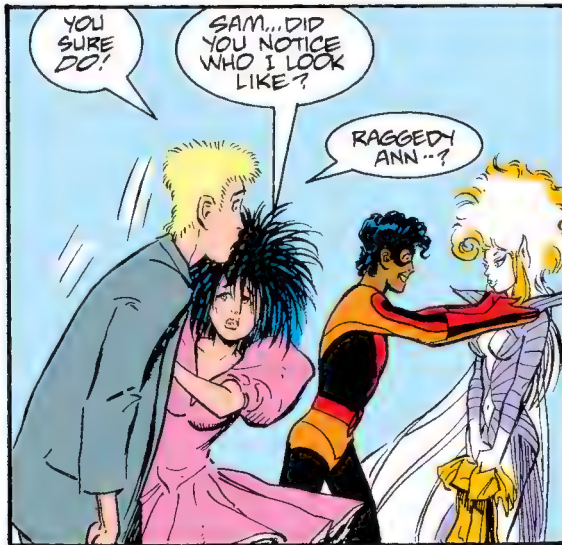
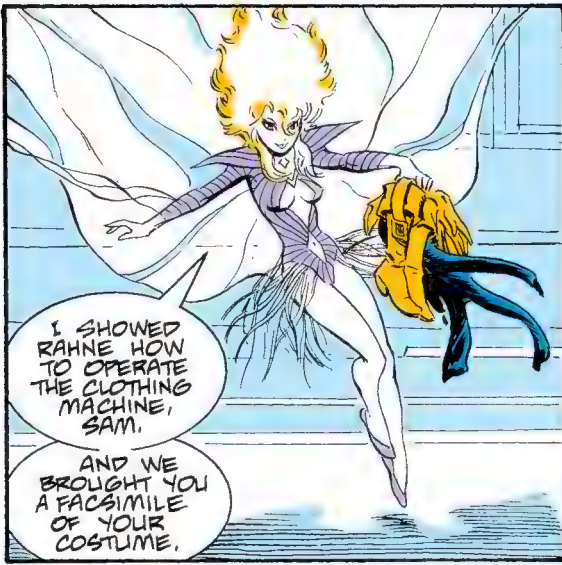
WILL YA LOOK AT THAT GET-UP?

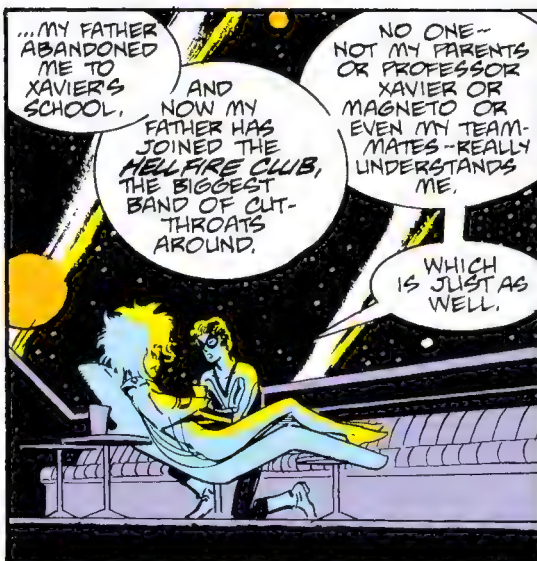


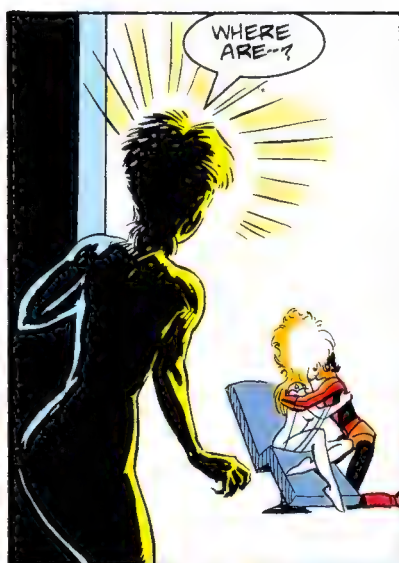
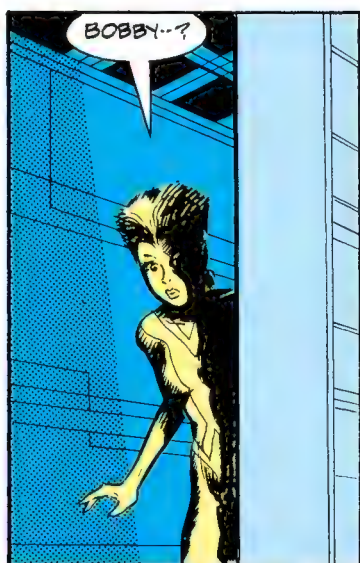
YOU BEEN PLAYIN' DRESS-UP-?

WOW...!

SAM! WHAT... IS IT?







SOON...

SELFRIENDS
ARE LUCKY THAT
SPIDER'S SHIP HAS
SLOWED...

...AND THAT
SPACE-YACHT
HAS AUTOMATIC
TRACKING
MECHANISM...

...OTHERWISE,
SELFRIENDS
MIGHT EASILY
LOSE SPIDER'S
SHIP.

I DON'T
KNOW, 'LOCK.
ASTROGATION
DOESN'T LOOK
THAT
DIFFICULT.

TA YOU
MAYBE, AH
HAVE ENOUGH
TROUBLE WITH
TRIGONOMETRY.

DO YOU,
SAM? YOU LOOK LIKE A
MAN WHO COULD HANDLE
ANYTHING.

AH
DO...?

THAT MUST BE
WHERE HE'S TAKING
LILA!

OH, SAM, YOU
MUST LOVE HER A
LOT TO COME ALL
THIS WAY TO RESCUE
HER. DON'T
YOU...?

SAM...?

SPIDER'S
SHIP APPEARS TO
BE VEERING NEAR
THAT PLANET.

DANI, WHY DO YOU
JUST KEEP MAKING THAT
SPEAR CHANGE
SIZES...?

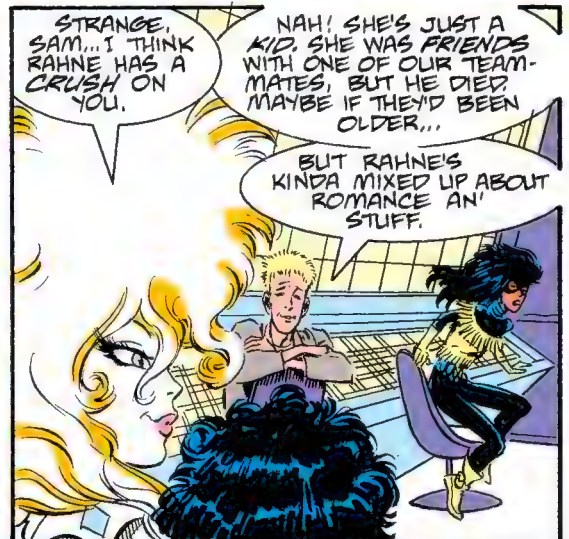
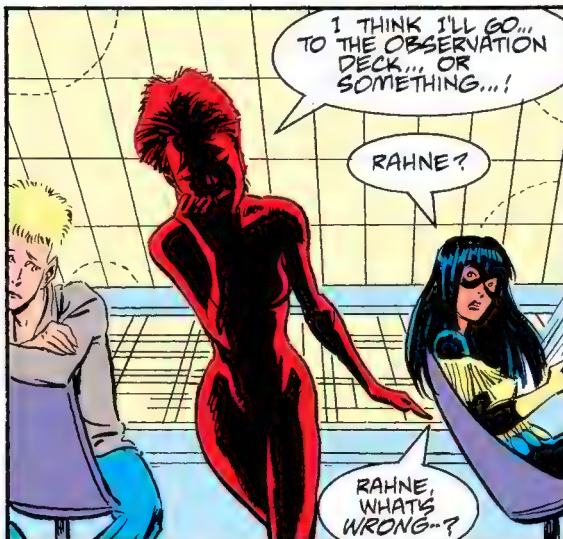
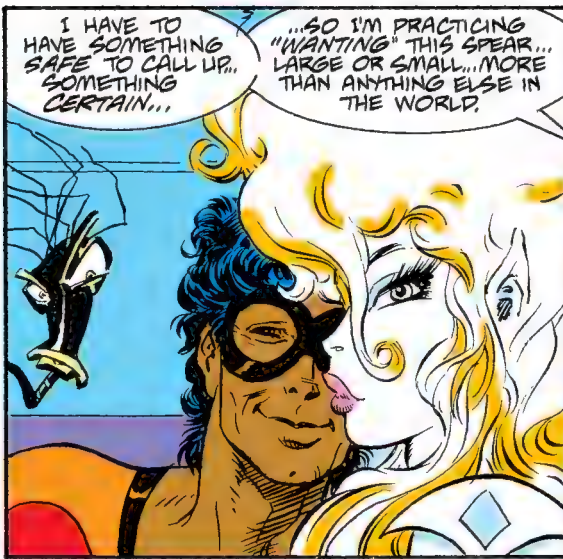
WHY DON'T YOU
CONJURE UP
SOMETHING...
INTERESTING?

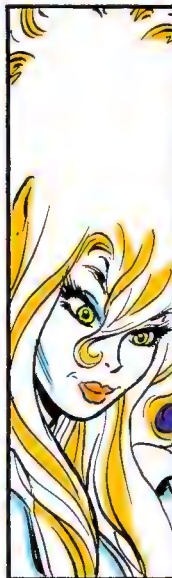
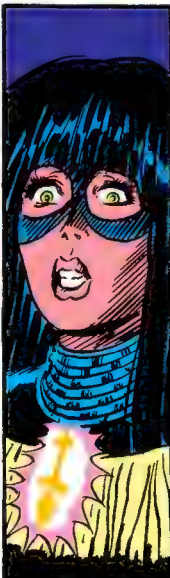
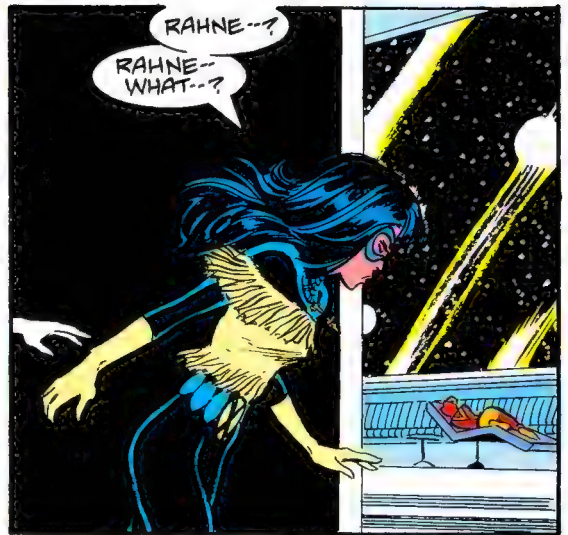
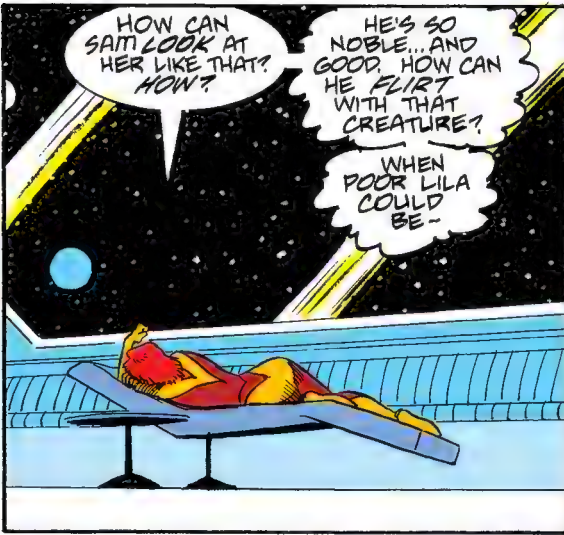
"INTERESTING"
IS EASY, I JUST FOCUS
ON SOMEONE'S GREATEST
FEAR OR DESIRE...

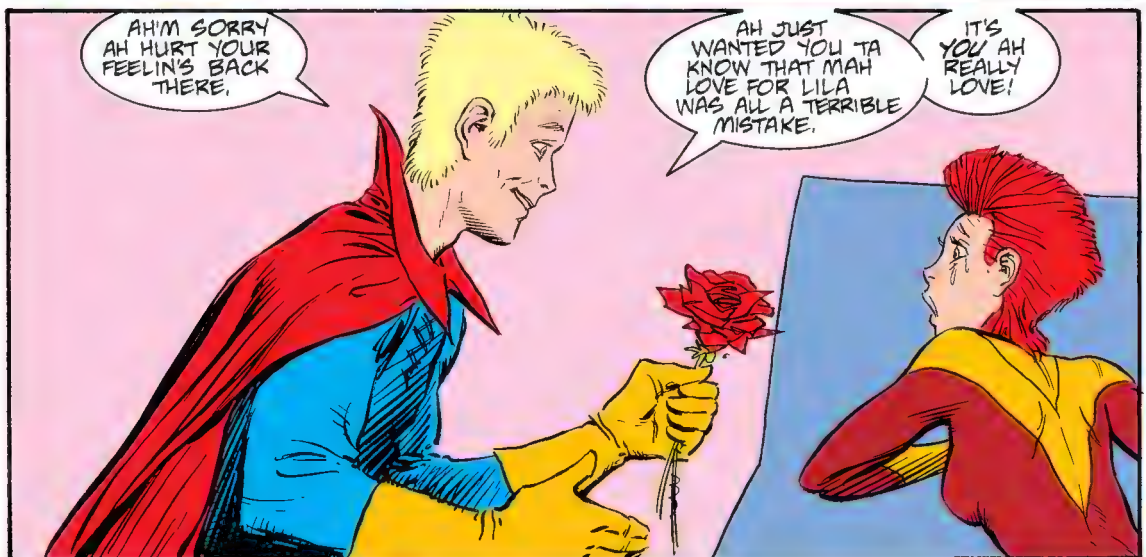
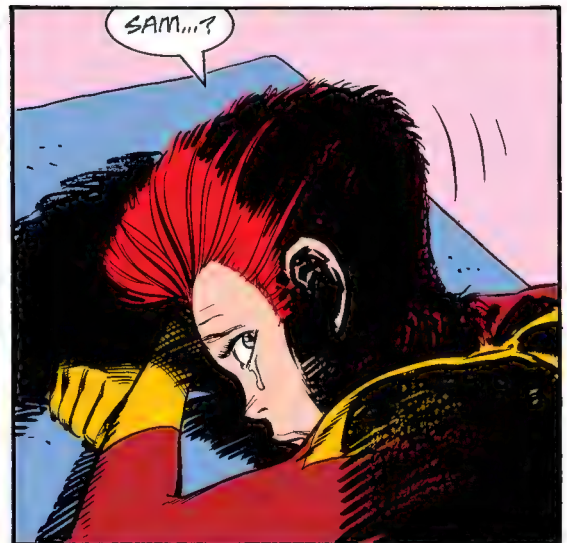
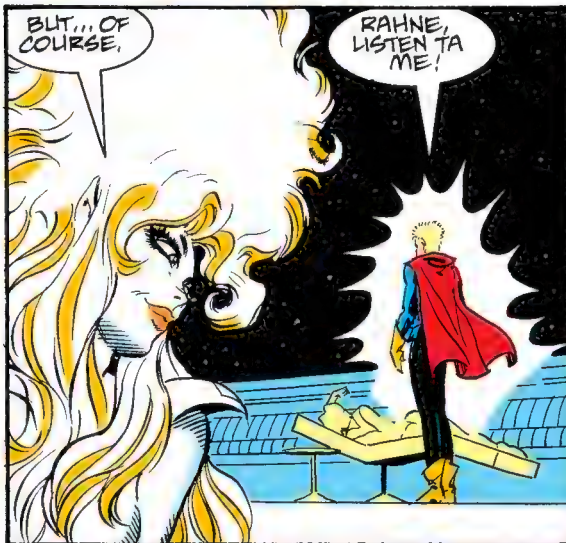
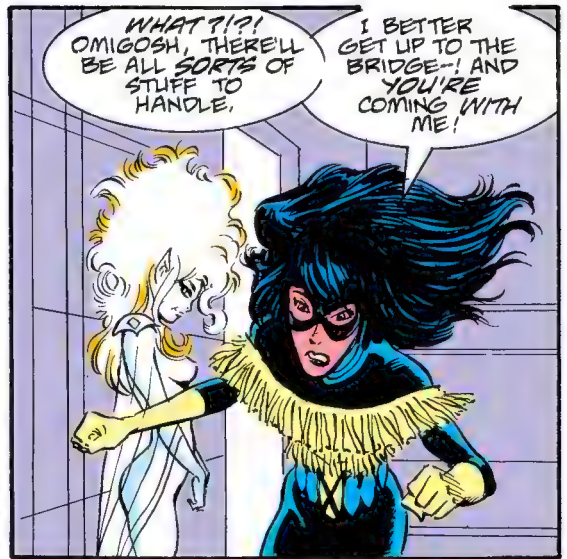
...AND THERE IT
IS, IN THE FLESH...
JUST AS THEY
SEE IT.

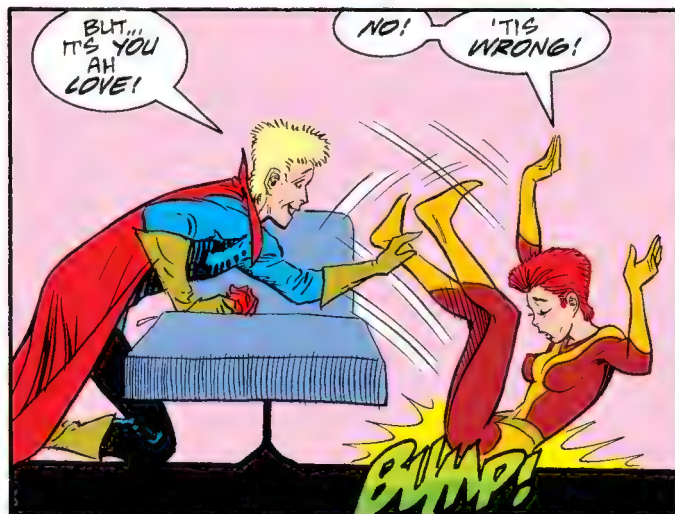
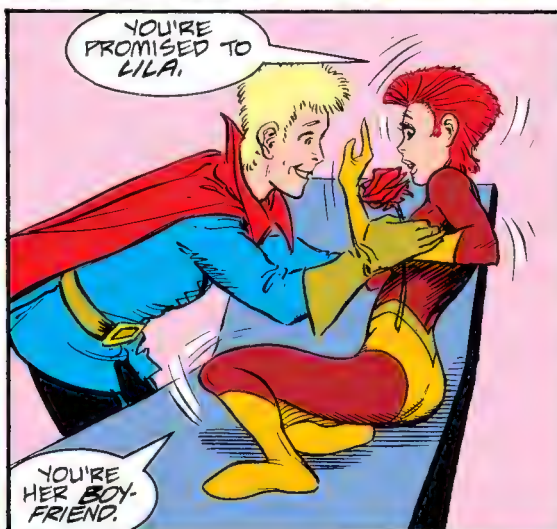
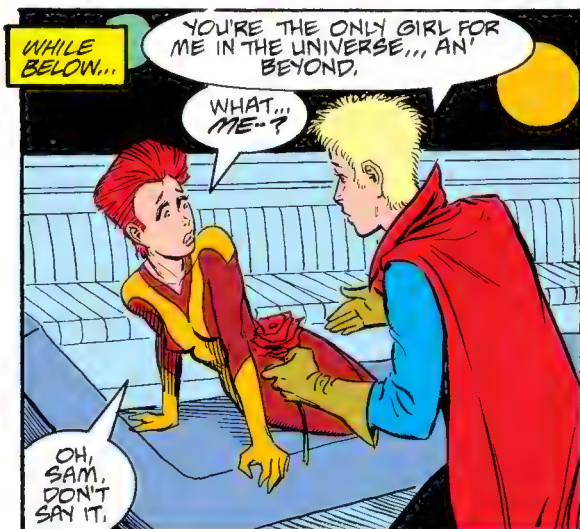
ONLY I CAN'T
KNOW WHAT THEY
WANT OR FEAR
TILL IT
APPEARS.

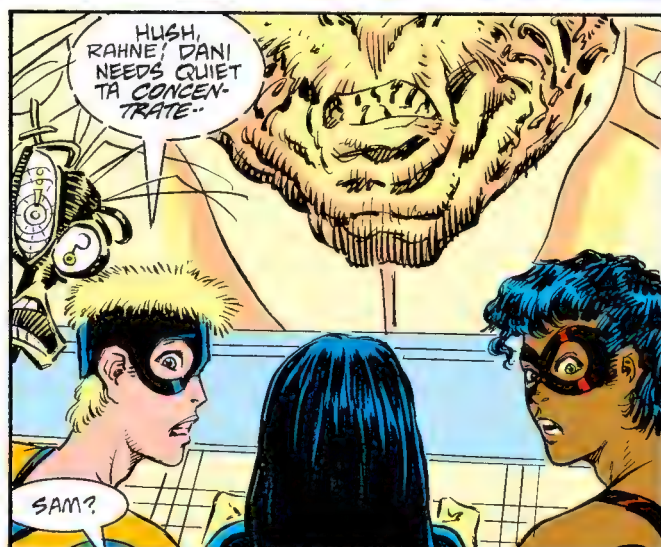
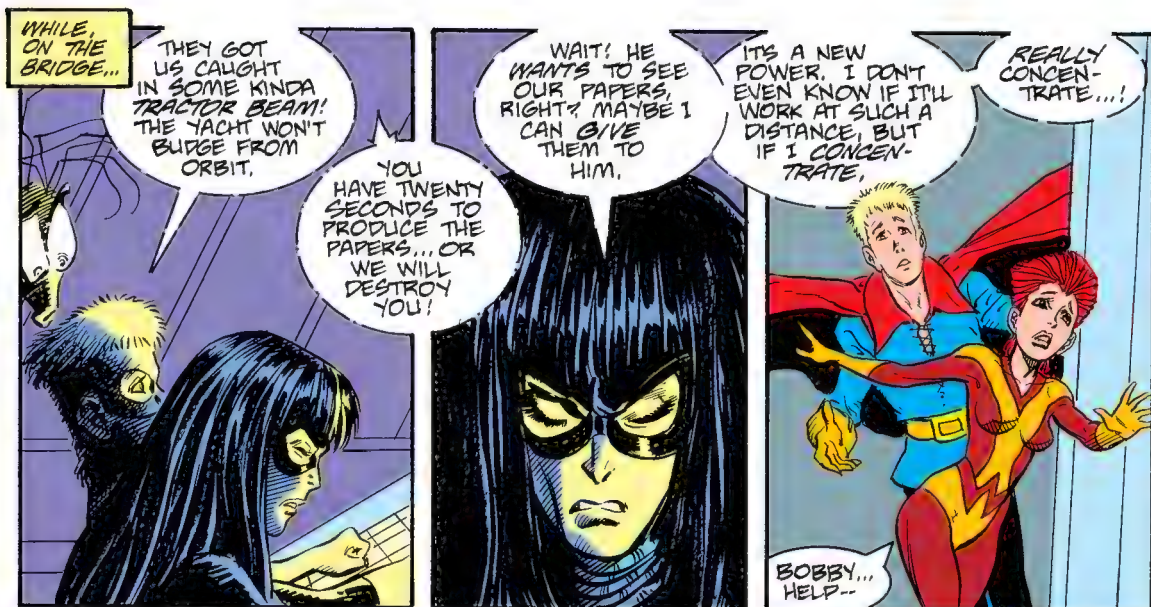
AND THEN
THE ONLY WAY TO
GET RID OF IT IS TO
CALL UP SOMETHING
ELSE.

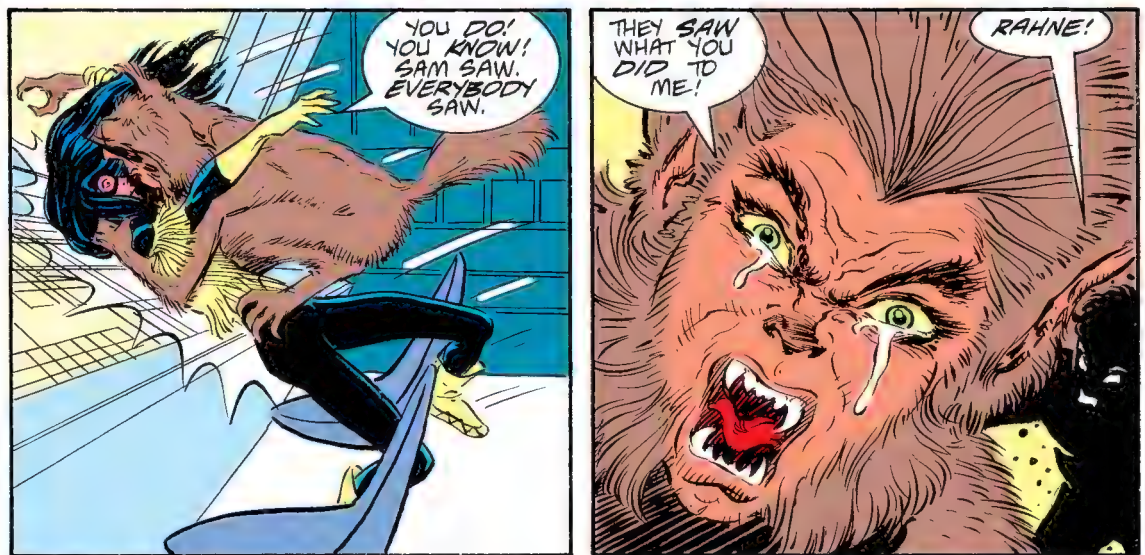
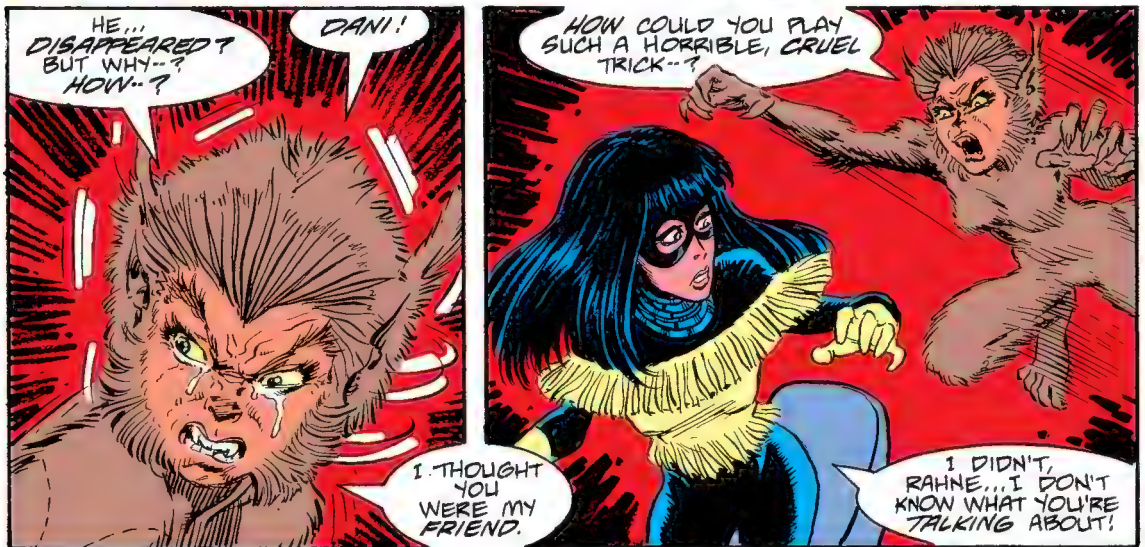
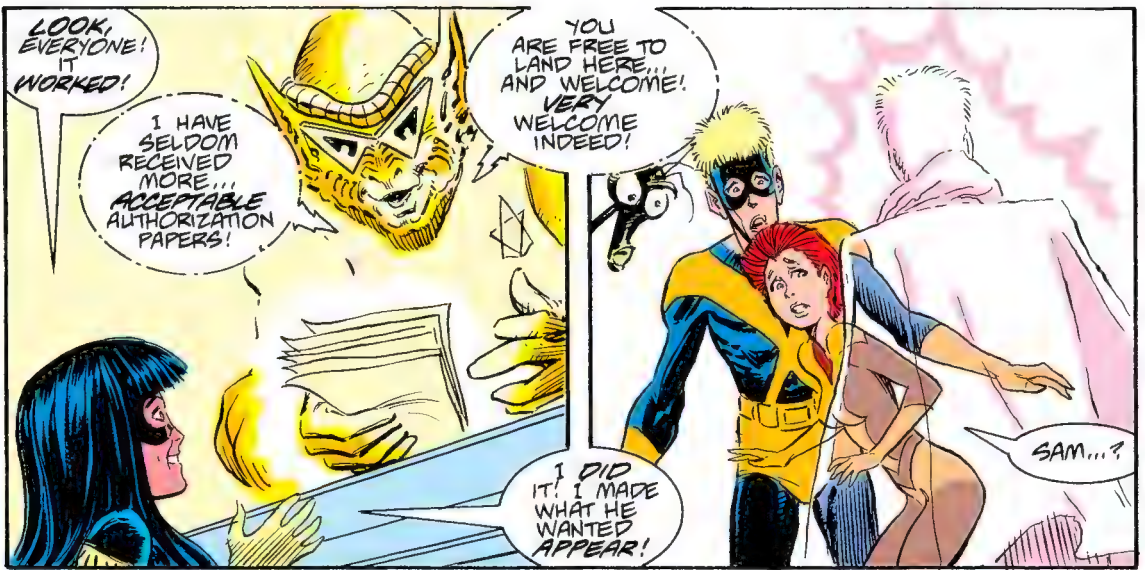


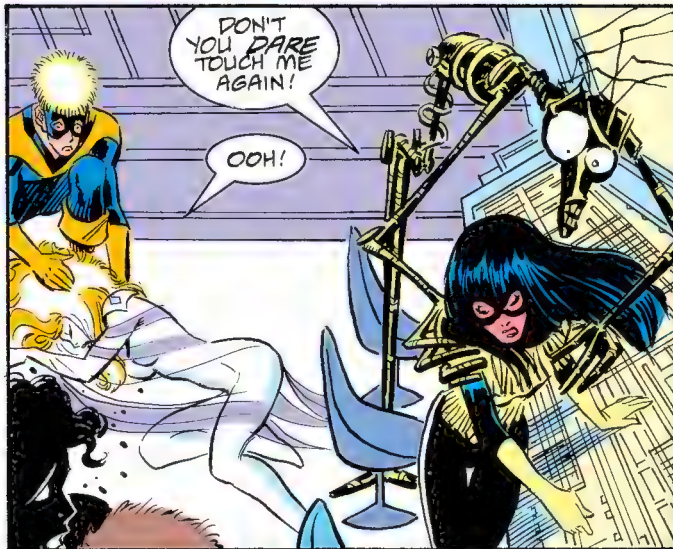
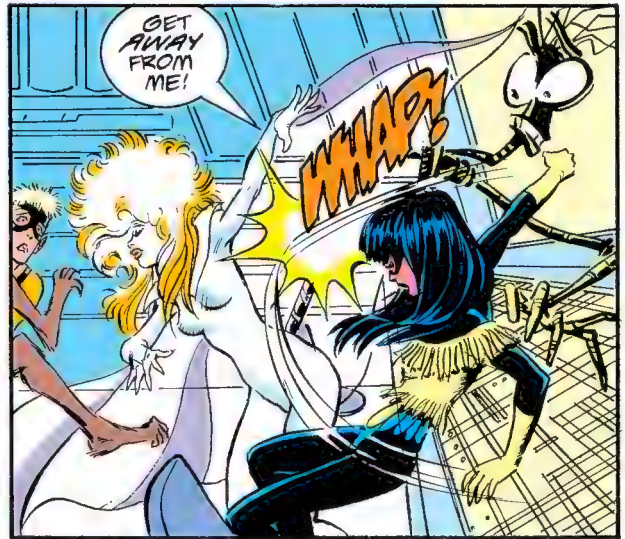
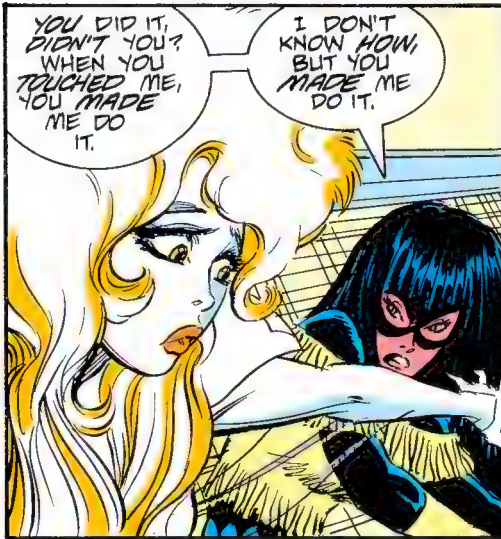
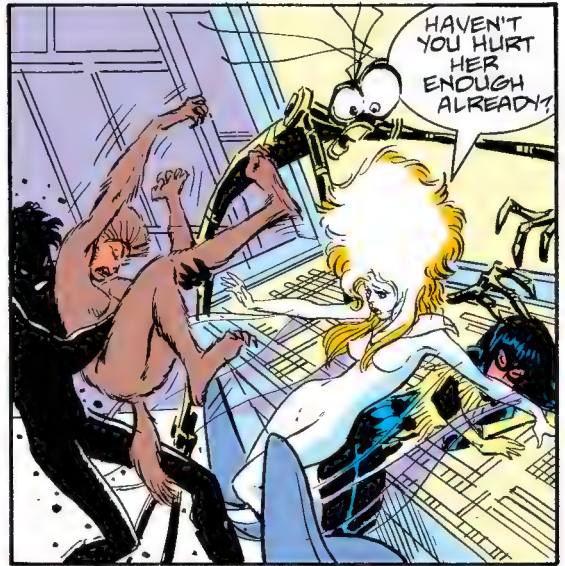


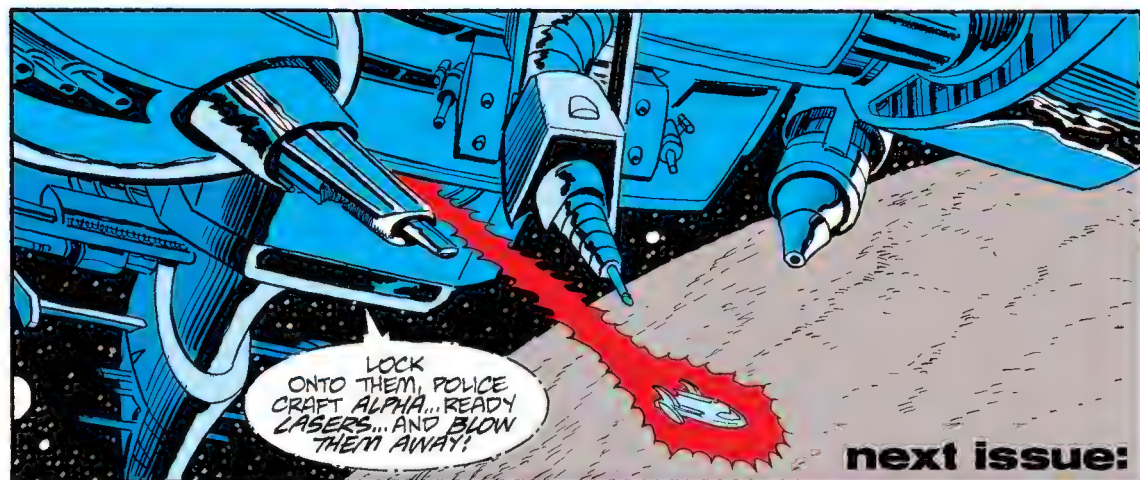
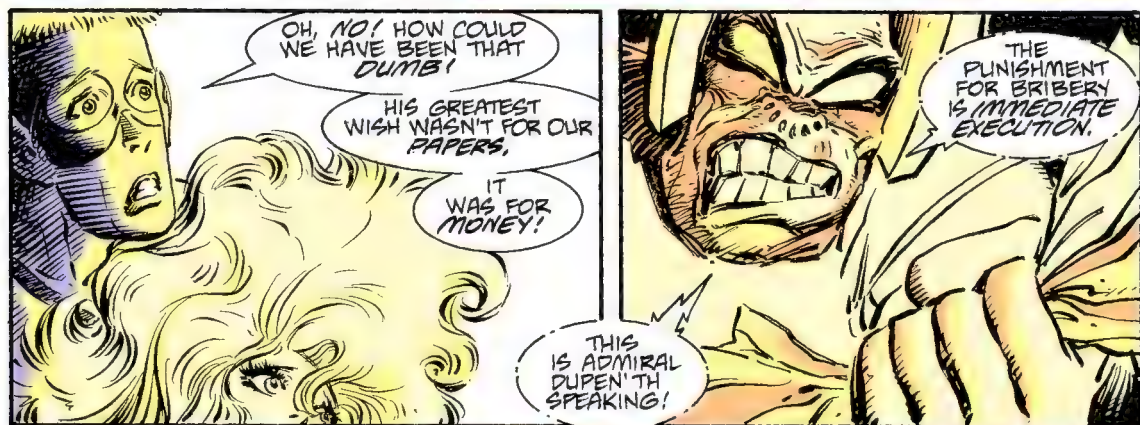
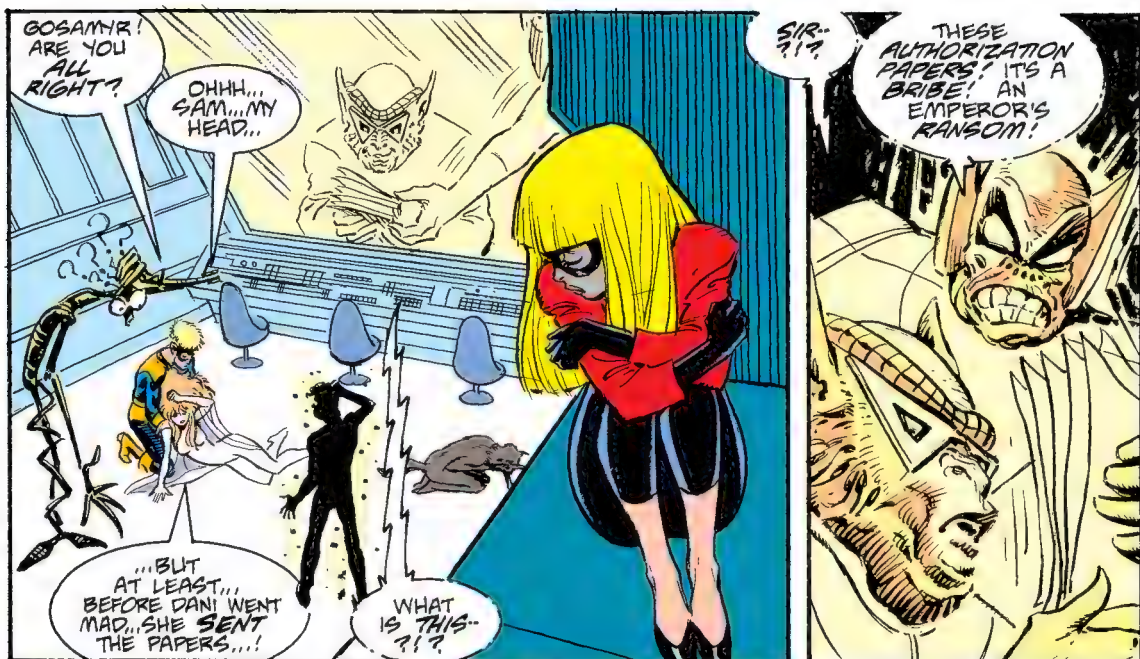












bad luck-bad news! **BAD COMPANY**

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BY THE
COMICS
CODE

CAN
AMTWORKY

THE NEW MUTANTS®

...IN
**SPYDER'S
LAIR!**



STAN LEE PRESENTS--

BAD COMPANY

THIS IS
ADMIRAL
DUPEN'TH
SPEAKING!

YOU HAVE
BRIBED A SPACE-
PORT OFFICER
IN AN ATTEMPT
TO "BUY" LANDING
AUTHORIZATION.

THE PUNISH-
MENT FOR THIS
OFFENSE IS
IMMEDIATE
TERMINATION!

LOCK ONTO
THEM, POLICE
CRAFT ALPHA...
AND ANNIHILATE
THEM!

SELFRIENDS--
LOOK! ON SCREEN IS
TRANSPACIAL
ANNIHILATOR!
POINTED AT
SELFRIENDS'
SHIP!



LOUISE SIMONSON
WRITER

BRET BLEVINS
PENCILLER

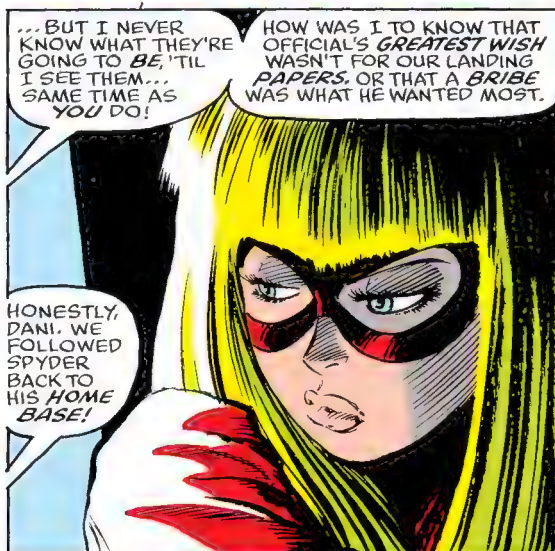
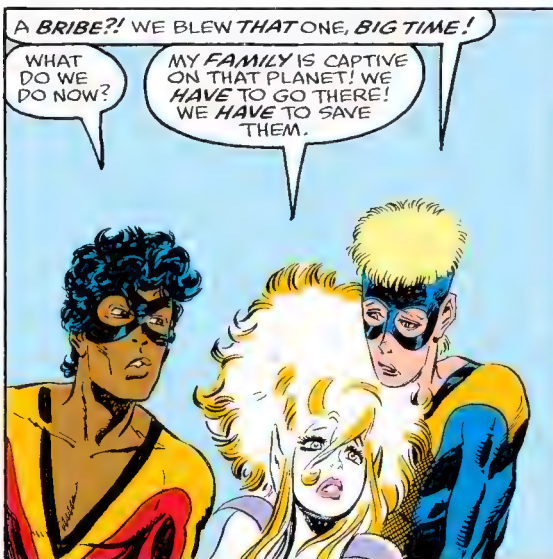
AL WILLIAMSON
INKER

JOE ROSEN
LETTERER

GLYNIS OLIVER
COLORIST

BOB HARRAS
EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF





...ONE...

WAIT!

L...LORD
SPYDER!



THAT *SPACE YACHT* CARRIES CARGO
BELONGING TO ME AND LANDS UNDER
MY AUTHORIZATION, ADMIRAL.

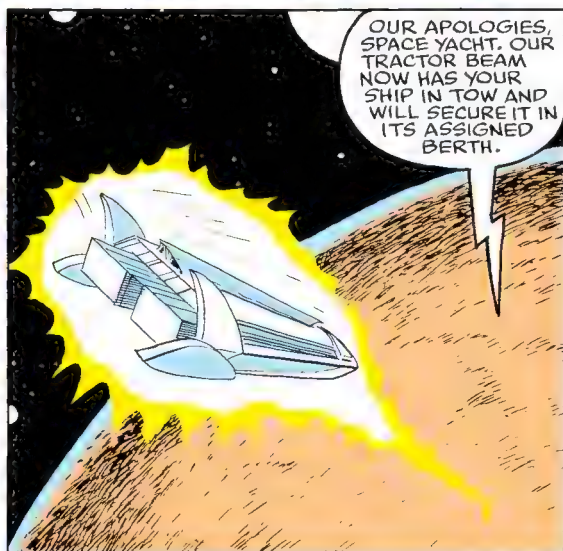
YES, LORD
SPYDER. I...
UNDERSTAND.
I WILL SEE
TO IT...



"...AT ONCE."

POLICE CRAFT ALPHA--
CERTAIN...CONFUSION
CONCERNING THE CLEARANCE
PAPERS OF THE *SPACE*
YACHT IN ORBIT 876B
HAS BEEN ELIMINATED!

LANDING HAS BEEN
AUTHORIZED! RELEASE
THEM IMMEDIATELY!



OUR APOLOGIES,
SPACE YACHT. OUR
TRACTOR BEAM
NOW HAS YOUR
SHIP IN TOW AND
WILL SECURE IT IN
ITS ASSIGNED
BERTH.



I DON'T LIKE IT!
THEY WOULDN'T
JUST RELEASE
US! IT'S A
TRICK!

WHY NOT
ADMIT IT,
GOSAMYR!

YOU SAW HOW
WELL MY POWER
WORKED, AND YOU
WERE JEALOUS...
JUST ADMIT IT.



IT WAS
ALL A
MISTAKE
...AFTER
ALL...

MY HEAD!
IT'S ACHING
...LIKE IT'S
GOING TO
BURST!

WHILE MILES BELOW...

EVEN IF LILA IS ALL THAT IS REPORTED, SIR, CAN SHE EVER PAY BACK YOUR COST IN ACQUIRING HER?

PROJECTED FIGURES SHOW LILA'S PROFITABILITY SURPASSING MY COSTS IN AN AVERAGE OF 2.78 HOURS OF ACTUAL TELEPORTATION TIME.

BIG DEAL LONG-DISTANCE TELEPORTER! HA!

TELEPORT OVER THIS!

OOH!

HO-HO! BRAVE LITTLE CHARD!

IT WEARS A MIND-BLOCK! POWERFUL AS IT IS, IT CANNOT USE ITS POWERS TO ESCAPE EVEN CHARD!

DO YOUR WORST, SLIME, WHILE YOU STILL CAN! THE NEW MUTANTS WILL FREE ME... AND DESTROY YOU!

THOSE CHILDREN...? DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND, LILA, THAT THEY ARE ALREADY MINE?

FOR GOSAMYR IS WITH THEM... AND MAKES FOOLS OF THEM ALL! THAT IS WHY WE HAVE FORBIDDEN SHE'S HERE!

GOSAMYR AND I ARE SHES.

NO LONGER. YOU ARE NOW ITS... PRODUCT... MERCHANDISE!

THERE! THE NEW MUTANTS' SHIP! SHALL WE ACQUIRE THEM FOR YOU, LORD?

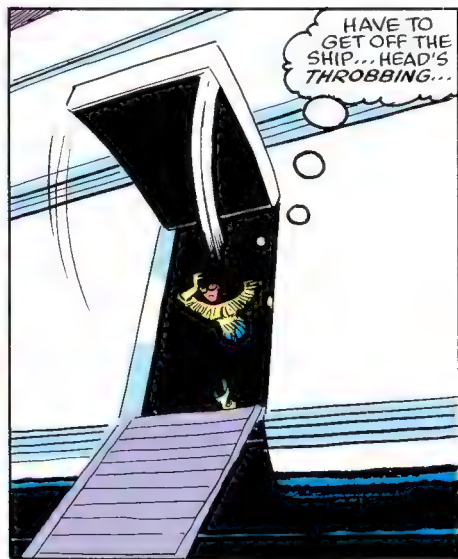
PATIENCE! AN 87.3% CHANCE OF INJURY TO ME EXISTS IN A FRONTAL ATTACK.

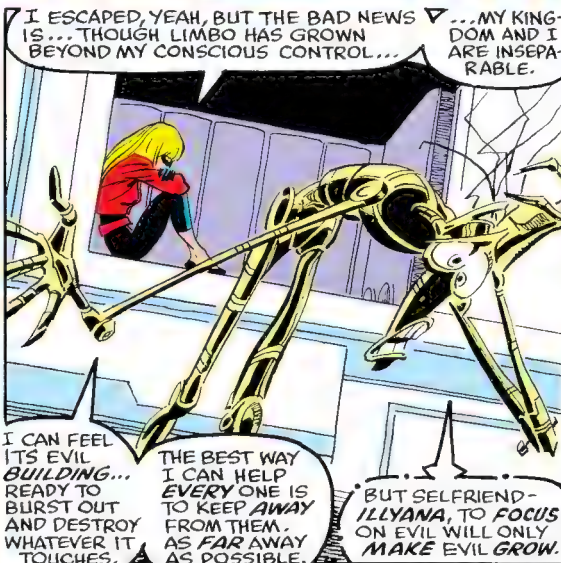
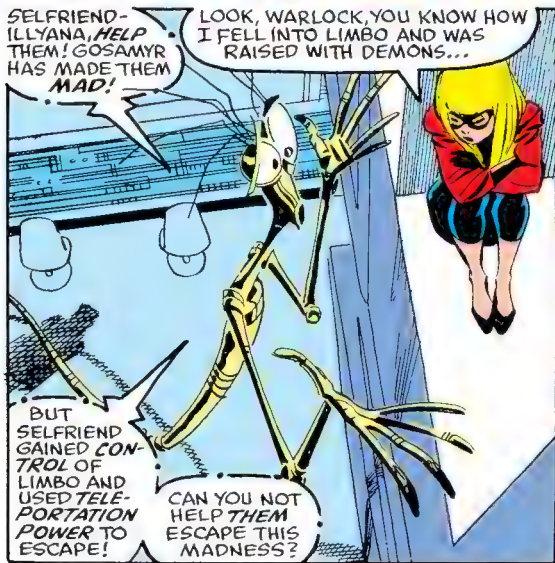
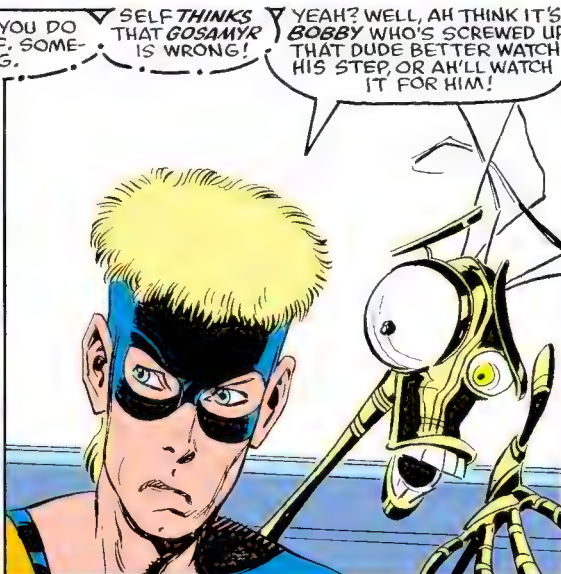
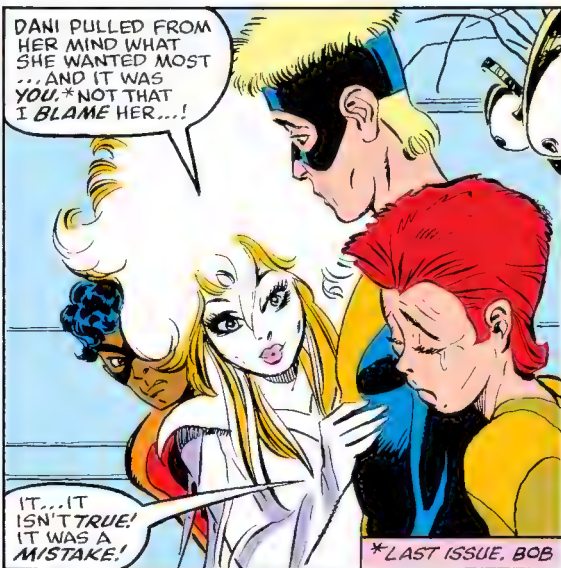
EVEN WITHOUT GOSAMYR'S... DISRUPTIVE INFLUENCE, THEY ARE IMPETUOUS!

EVERYTHING THEY FEEL IS TO EXCESS... WHILE I FEEL NOTHING, UNLESS I CHOOSE TO FEEL.

WE WILL WAIT SAFELY IN MY PALACE... AND GOSAMYR WILL LEAD THEM THERE...

"...AND I WILL CAPTURE THEM. DRAIN OFF THESE EXCESSIVE EMOTIONS, TO SAVOR...AS I SAVOR NOW THE SWEET SCENT OF SATISFACTION. FOR THEY ARE HERE.





"EXCLAMATION: SELF WILL FIND SELFRIENDAN!! SHE DOES NOT LIKE GOSAMYR. MAYBE SHE WILL HELP..."

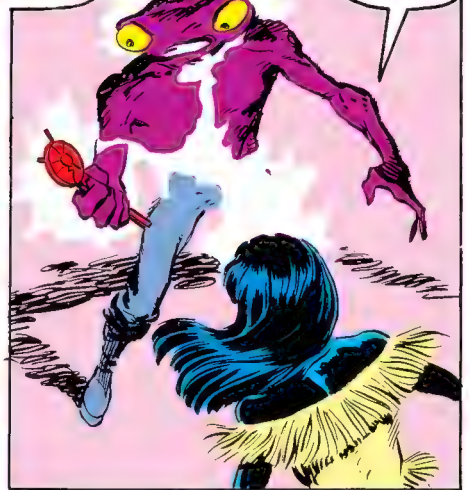


GET BACK, YOU TURKEYS! I'VE BEEN TRAINED TO FIGHT BY THE BEST...

... AND I'VE GOT OTHER WEAPONS THAN FEET!

YOU JERKS SEEM TO BE INTO PROFIT MOTIVE...

... SO LET'S SEE WHAT YOU WANT MOST!



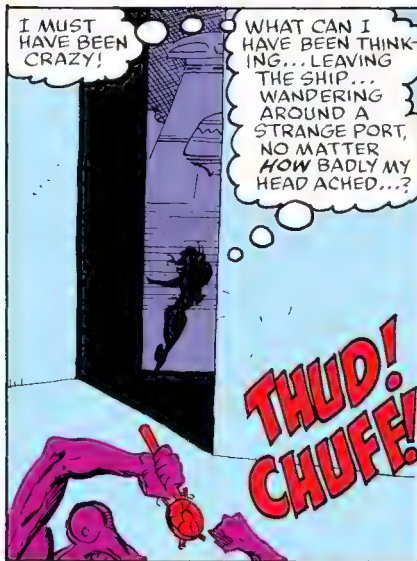
THE BAUBLE OF BABLE!

IT WASN'T LOST ON OUR LAST CAPER! YOU STOLE IT!



BUT I WILL HAVE IT FOR MY OWN!

I GOT LUCKY THAT TIME!



I MUST HAVE BEEN CRAZY!

WHAT CAN I HAVE BEEN THINKING... LEAVING THE SHIP... WANDERING AROUND A STRANGE PORT, NO MATTER HOW BADLY MY HEAD ACHED...?

THUD! CHUFF!



I BETTER GET BACK BEFORE--

THERE IT COMES NOW!

GET IT!

YOU'RE CRUISING FOR A BRUISING, BOBBY! AH'D HATE TA HAFTA BUST YOUR TAIL!

POOR LITTLE RAHNE. SHE'S POURING OUT HER HEART...AND SAM DOESN'T EVEN HEAR.

WARLOCK'S RIGHT. MAYBE FOCUSING ON EVIL DOES MAKE IT WORSE.

IT ALL SEEMS SO OVERWHELMING. MAYBE...IT'S JUST AS OVERWHELMING FOR RAHNE.

SHE STOOD BY ME... HELPED ME... AND I--

LISTEN, RAHNE, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL...

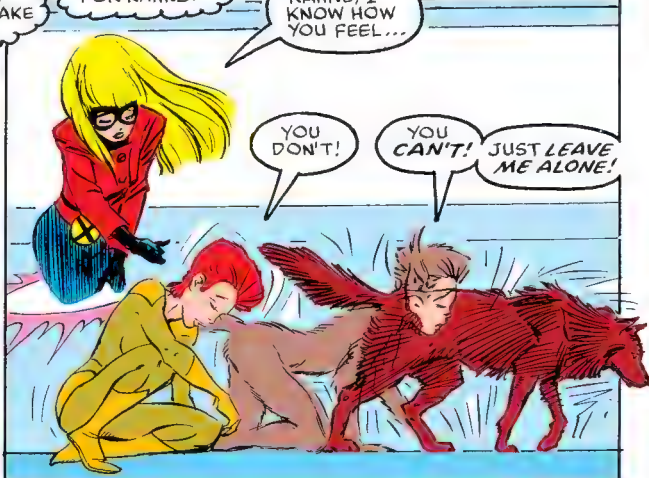
IT WASN'T LIKE GOSAMYR SAID, SAM. IT WAS A MISTAKE. REALLY.



YOU DON'T!

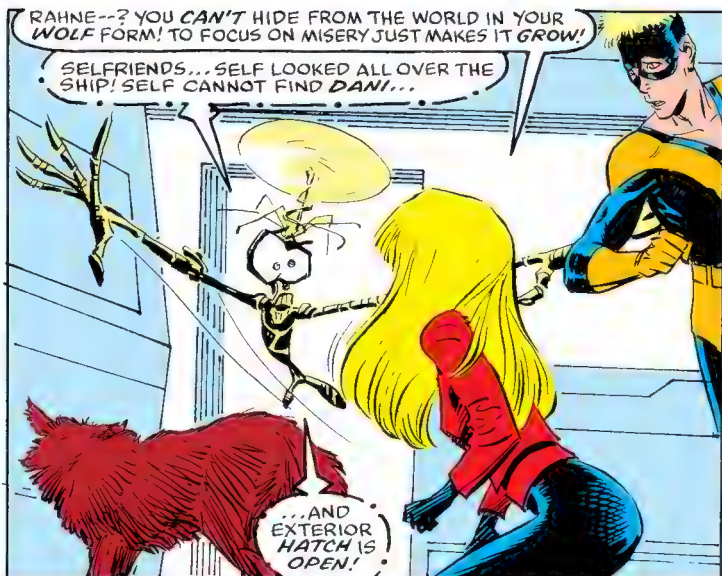
YOU CAN'T!

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!



RAHNE--? YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM THE WORLD IN YOUR WOLF FORM! TO FOCUS ON MISERY JUST MAKES IT GROW!

SELFRIENDS... SELF LOOKED ALL OVER THE SHIP! SELF CANNOT FIND DANI...

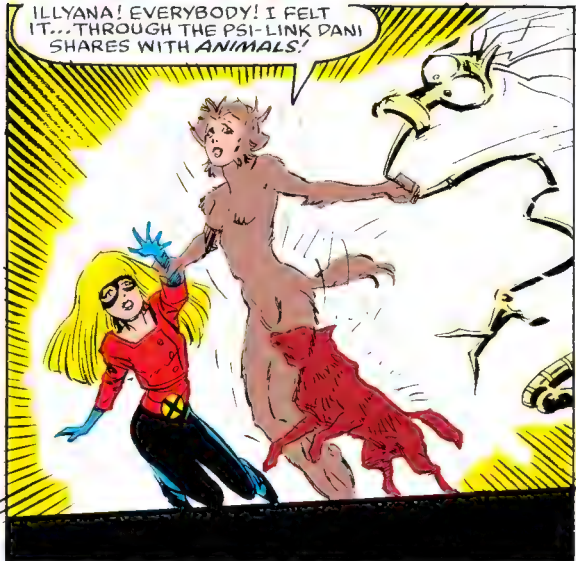


...AND EXTERIOR HATCH IS OPEN!

DANI--?!



ILLYANA! EVERYBODY! I FELT IT... THROUGH THE PSI-LINK DANI SHARES WITH ANIMALS!



SHE'S SURROUNDED BY ALIEN ATTACKERS.

OUT THERE! SEE--?



YES... BUT WHAT'S SHE DOING WAY OVER THERE! COME ON!

WE CAN TELEPORT THERE FASTER THAN WE CAN RUN--

HOLY COW!

THERE SHE IS!

TIME IS CLOSE!

GET HER!

AH SURE WISH THERE WAS SOME WAY WE COULD 'PORT FROM PLACE TO PLACE WITHOUT CUTTIN' THROUGH LIMBO.

SO DO I, SAM! BUT THE STEPPING DISCS ARE AS MUCH A PART OF LIMBO...

...AS AM I!

DARKCHILDE HAS DRAWN SWORD!

GET BACK!

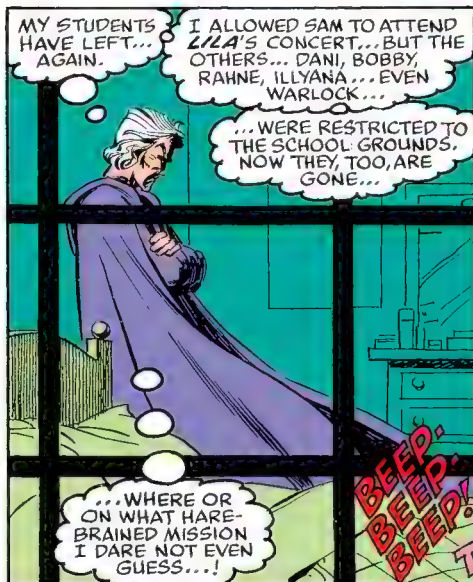
ILLYANA, LEAVE THE SWORD HERE, PLEASE. IT WILL KEEP AT LEAST ONE SPOT IN LIMBO FREE OF THOSE VILE CREATURES.

...AND IT ONLY AFFECTS THINGS THAT ARE MAGIC, ANYWAY!

"WE WON'T NEED IT ON SPYDER'S WORLD..."

HEY! LOOK! WHILE WE'VE BEEN FIGHTIN' EACH OTHER... THE GRISSOM GANG GOT TH' ALIEN!

WHILE FAR AWAY IN NEW YORK STATE'S WESTCHESTER COUNTY, AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...



MY STUDENTS HAVE LEFT... AGAIN.

I ALLOWED SAM TO ATTEND LILA'S CONCERT... BUT THE OTHERS... DANI, BOBBY, RAHNE, ILLYANA... EVEN WARLOCK...

...WERE RESTRICTED TO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS. NOW THEY, TOO, ARE GONE...

...WHERE OR ON WHAT HARE-BRAINED MISSION I DARE NOT EVEN GUESS...

BEEP. BEEP. BEEP. TAP!



AH... MISS FROST!

CALLING FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY, MAGNUS.

MY STUDENTS HAVE HERE INFORMED ME OF A REPORTED ALIEN INVASION OF THE LILA CONCERT!

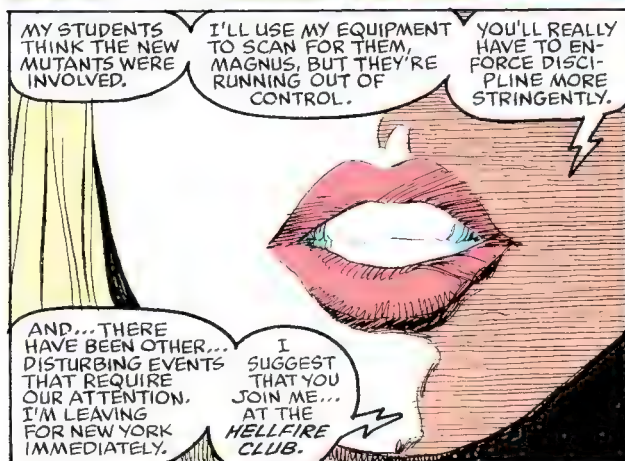
THE MEDIA ARE TRYING TO EXPLAIN IT AWAY AS SPECIAL EFFECTS, BUT--



WHAT... HAPPENED--?

THEY SAY... MONSTERS INVADDED THE CONCERT HALL AND CARRIED LILA OFF.

THERE WAS A CONFUSED EFFORT TO STOP THEM.



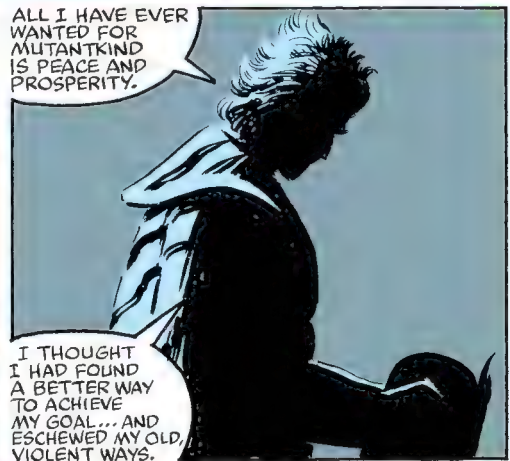
MY STUDENTS THINK THE NEW MUTANTS WERE INVOLVED.

I'LL USE MY EQUIPMENT TO SCAN FOR THEM, MAGNUS, BUT THEY'RE RUNNING OUT OF CONTROL.

YOU'LL REALLY HAVE TO ENFORCE DISCIPLINE MORE STRINGENTLY.

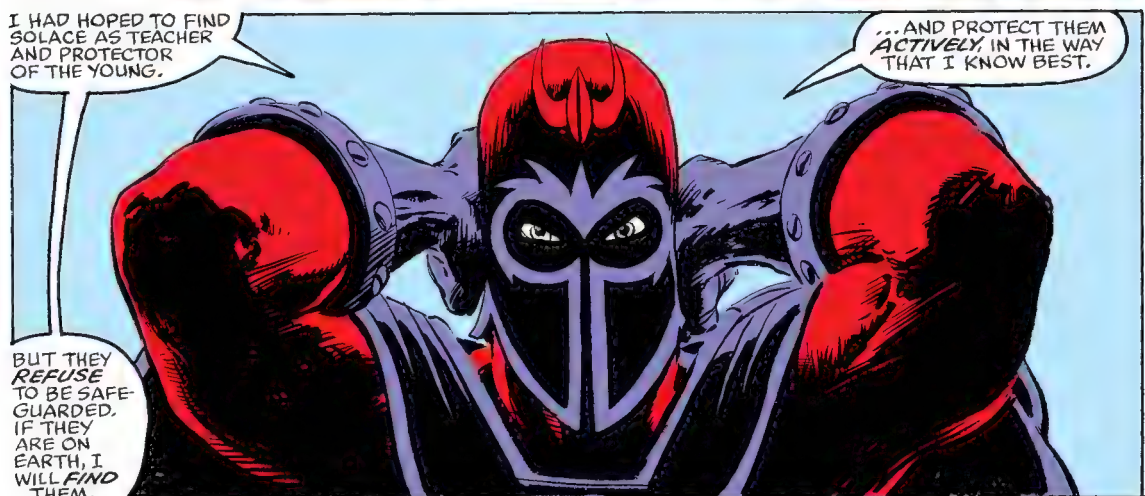
AND... THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER... DISTURBING EVENTS THAT REQUIRE OUR ATTENTION. I'M LEAVING FOR NEW YORK IMMEDIATELY.

I SUGGEST THAT YOU JOIN ME... AT THE HELLFIRE CLUB.



ALL I HAVE EVER WANTED FOR MUTANTKIND IS PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

I THOUGHT I HAD FOUND A BETTER WAY TO ACHIEVE MY GOAL... AND ESCHEWED MY OLD, VIOLENT WAYS.



I HAD HOPED TO FIND SOLACE AS TEACHER AND PROTECTOR OF THE YOUNG.

...AND PROTECT THEM ACTIVELY, IN THE WAY THAT I KNOW BEST.

BUT THEY REFUSE TO BE SAFE-GUARDED. IF THEY ARE ON EARTH, I WILL FIND THEM...

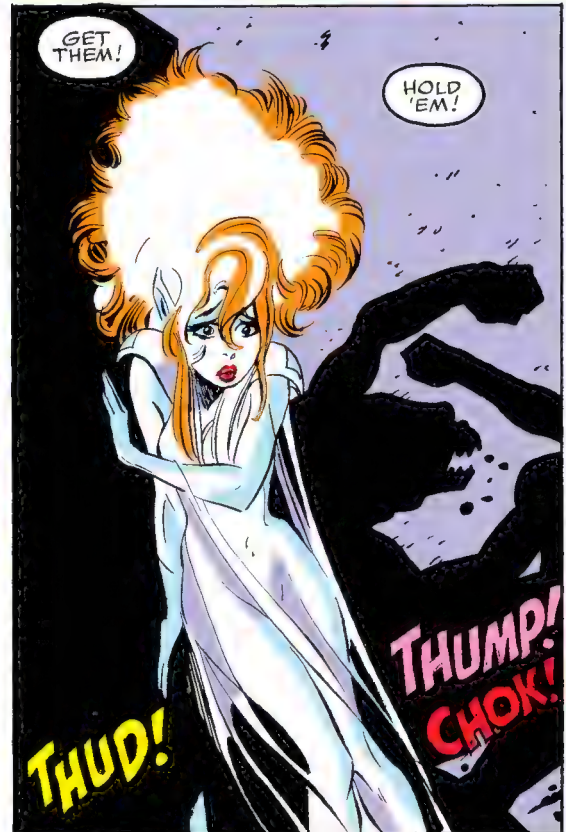
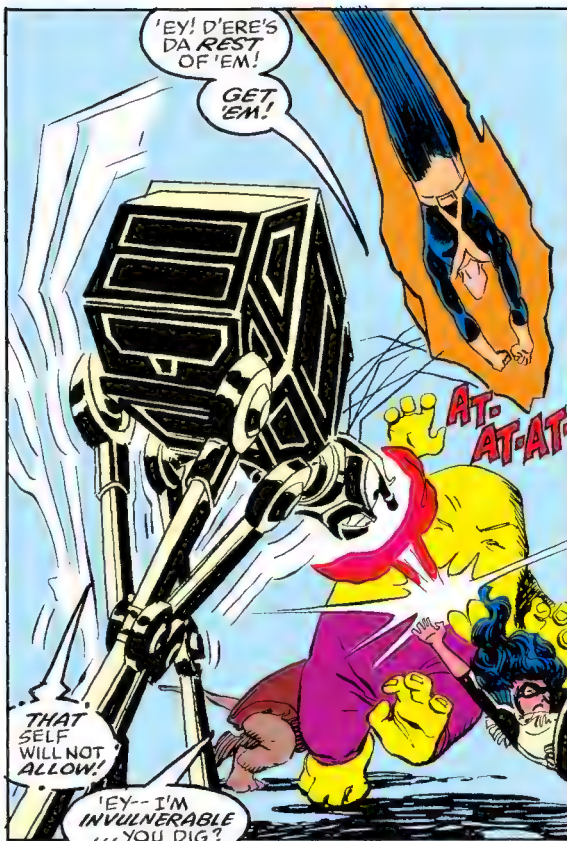
WHILE IN A
DISTANT STAR-
SYSTEM...

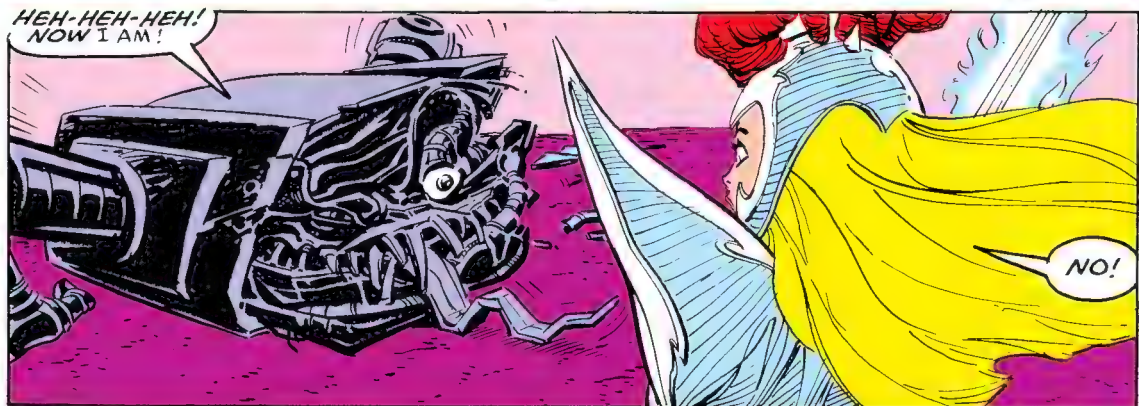
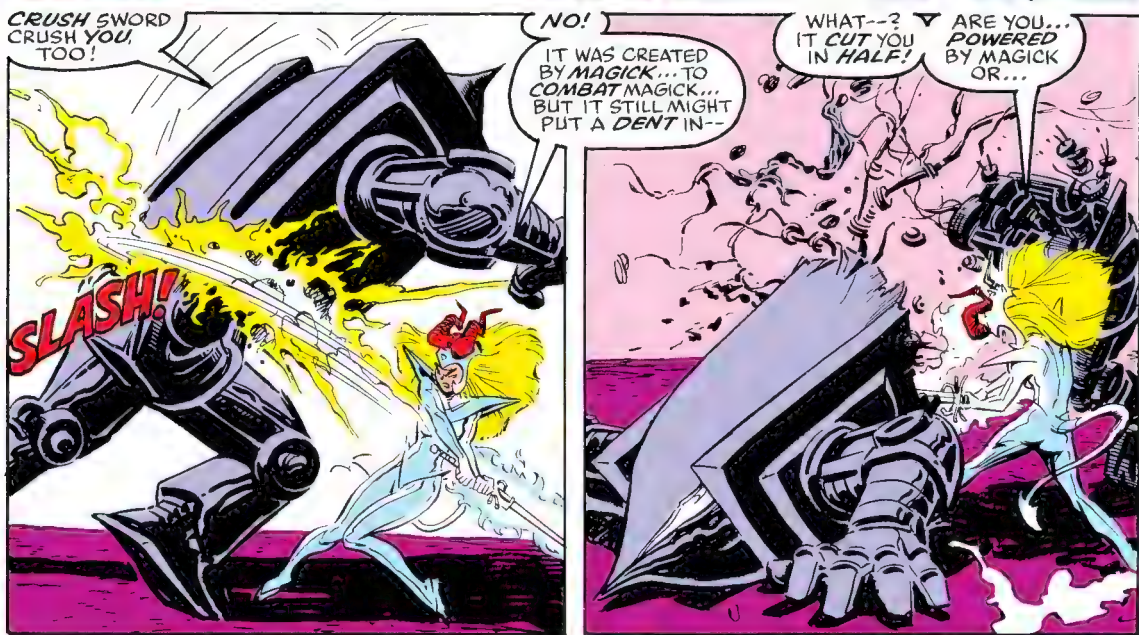
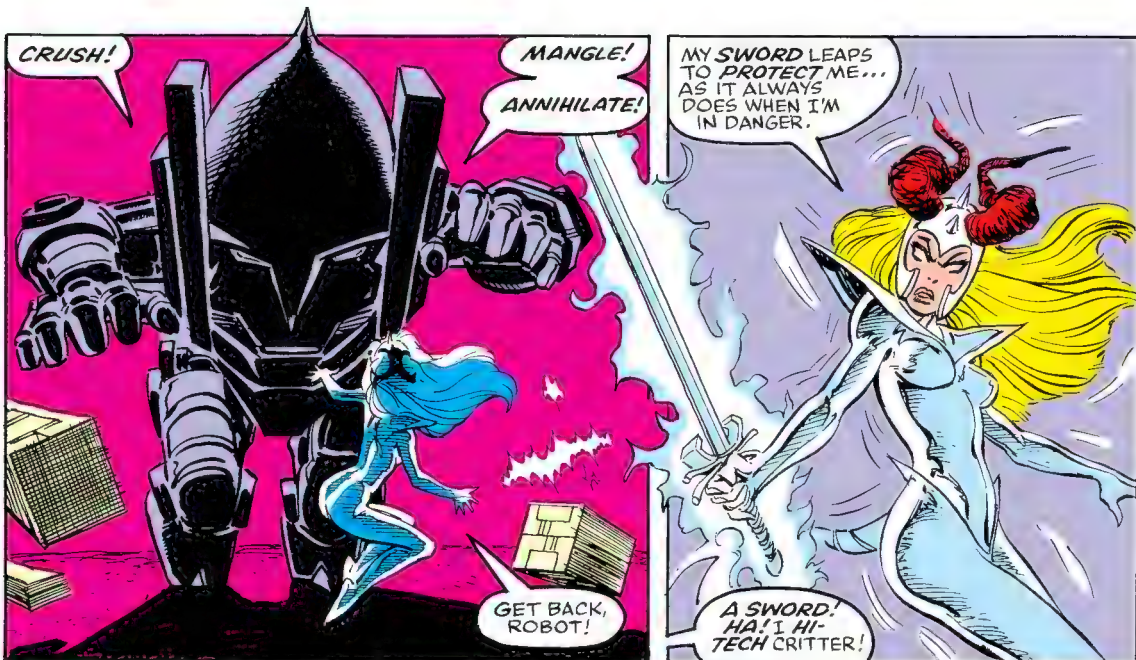
THERE
THEY ARE!

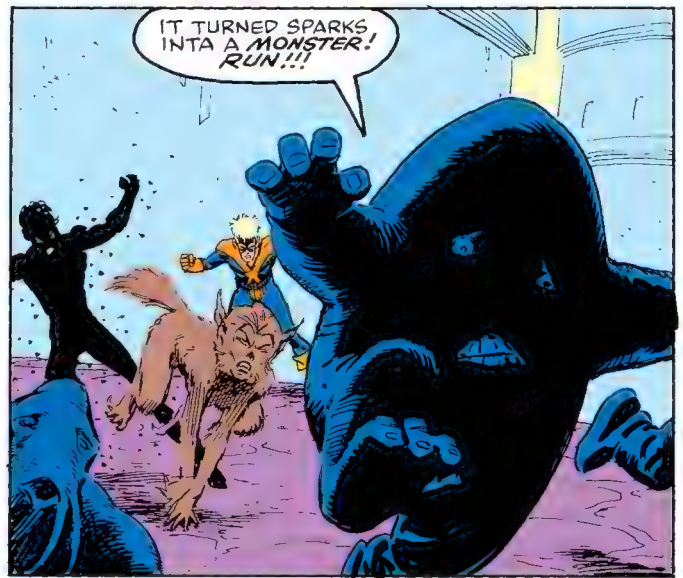
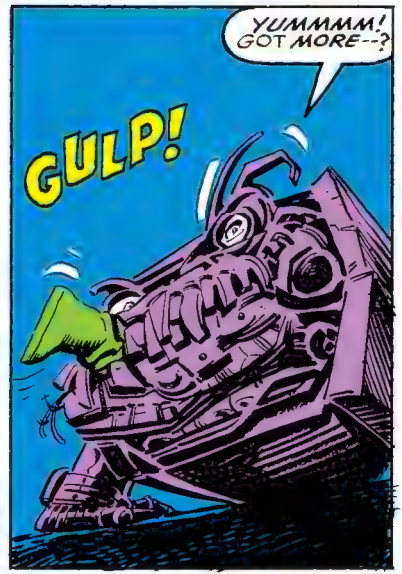
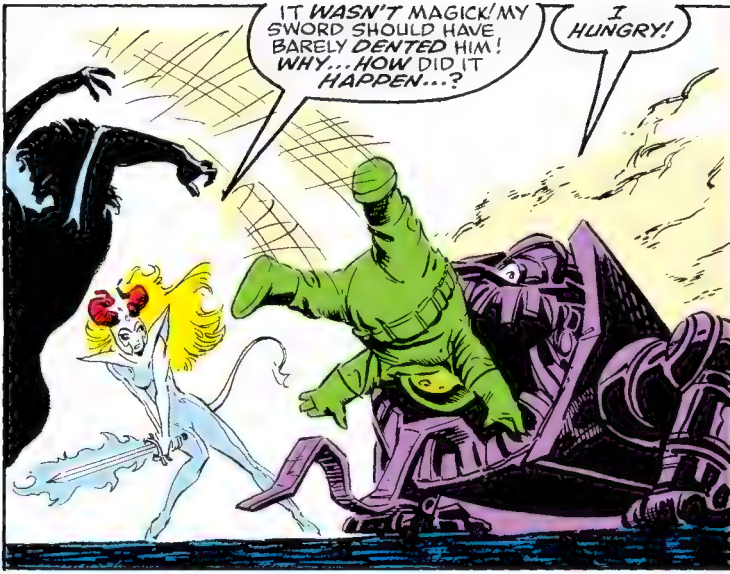
THEY
HAVE
DANI!

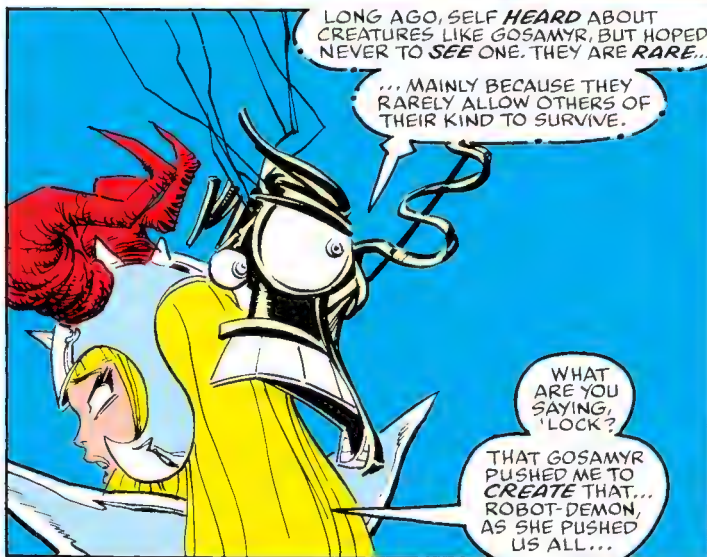
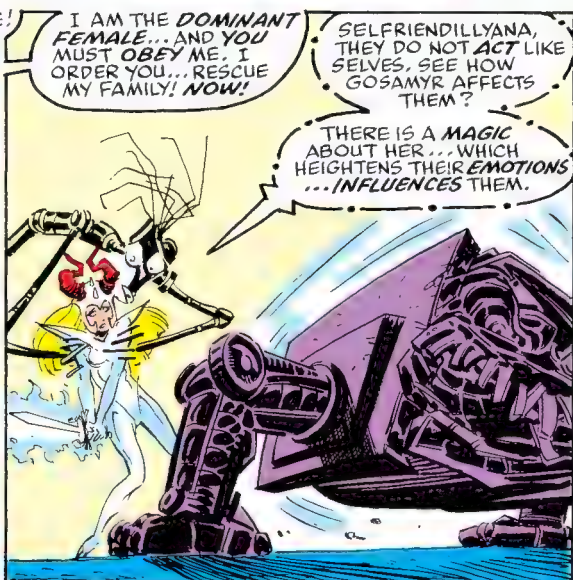
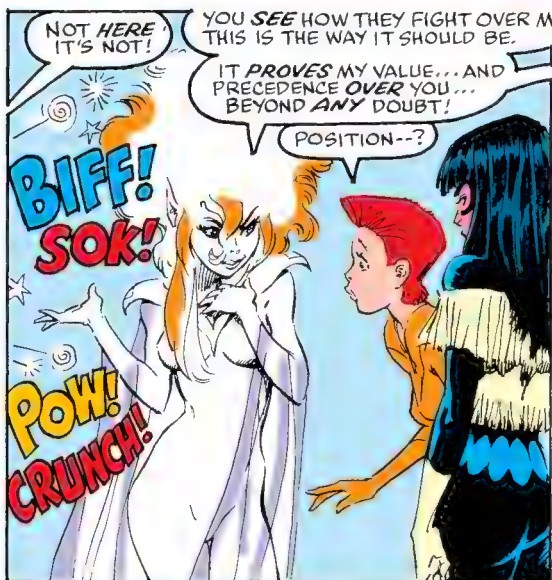
DROP
HER, YOU
FILTHY
THINGS!

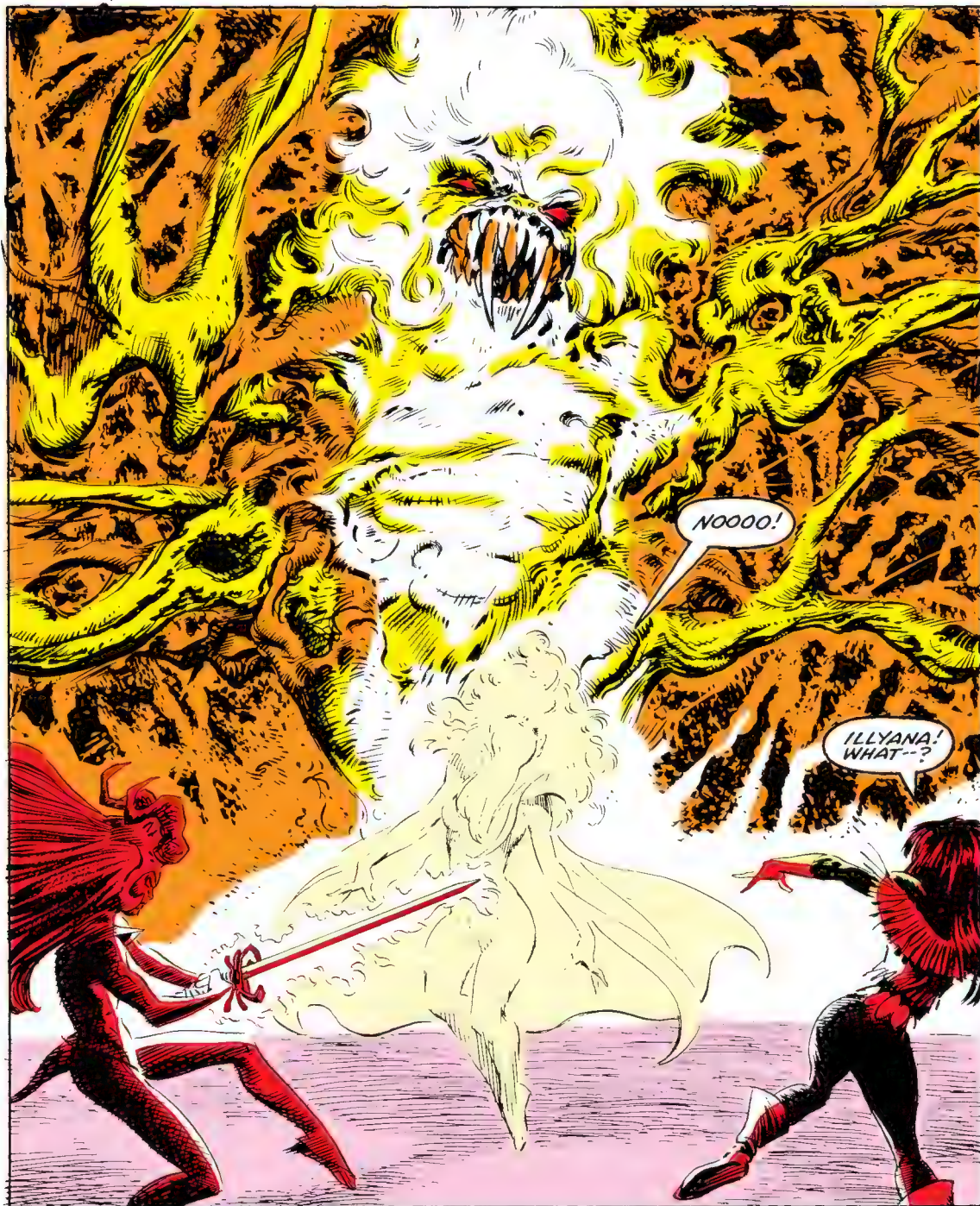


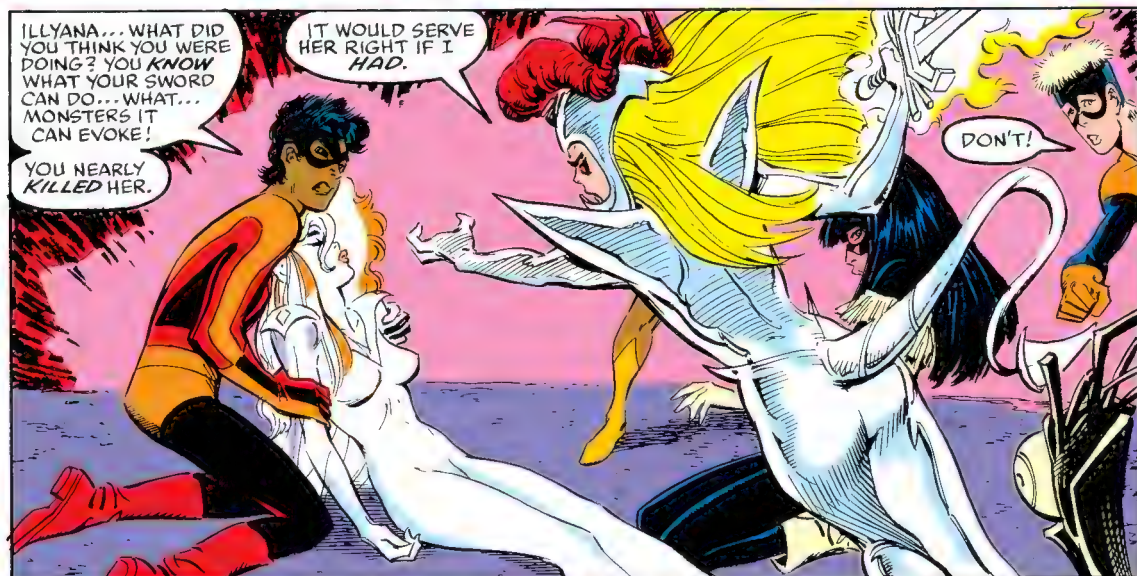
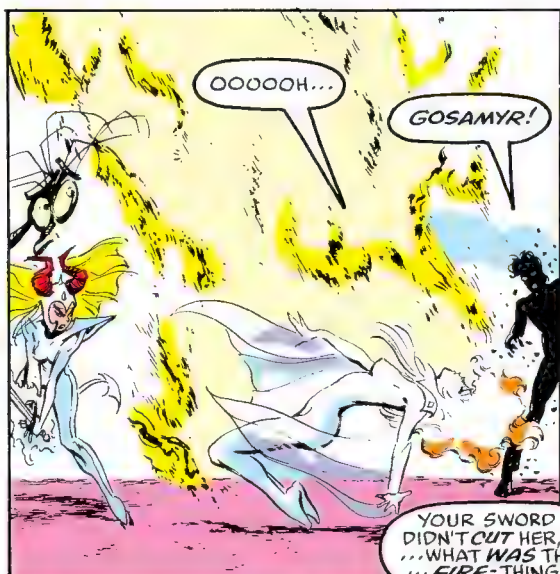


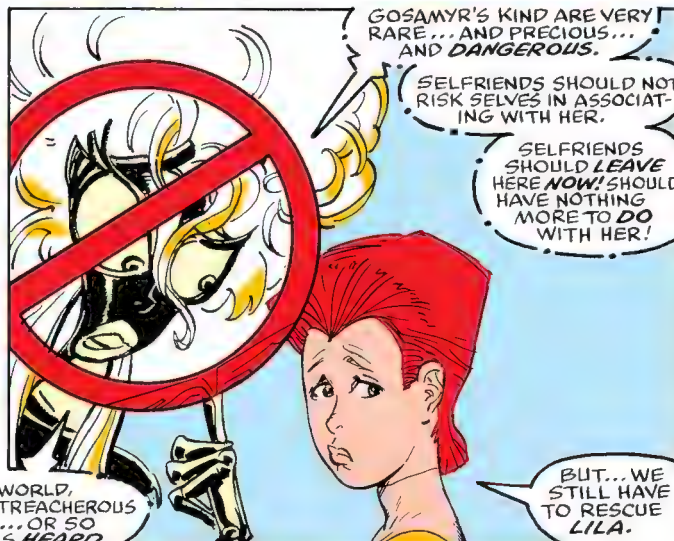


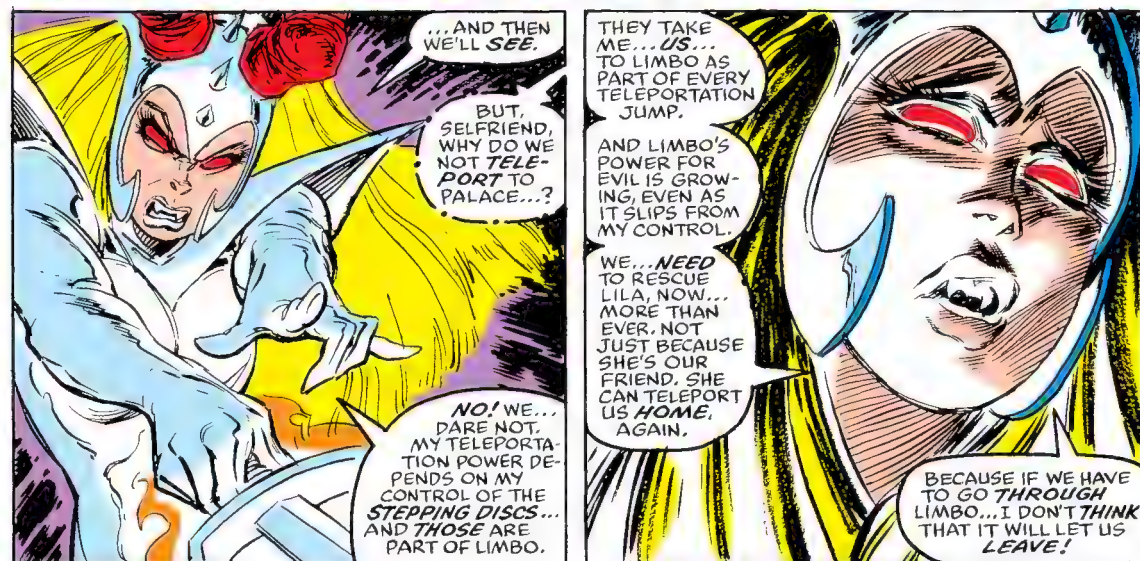
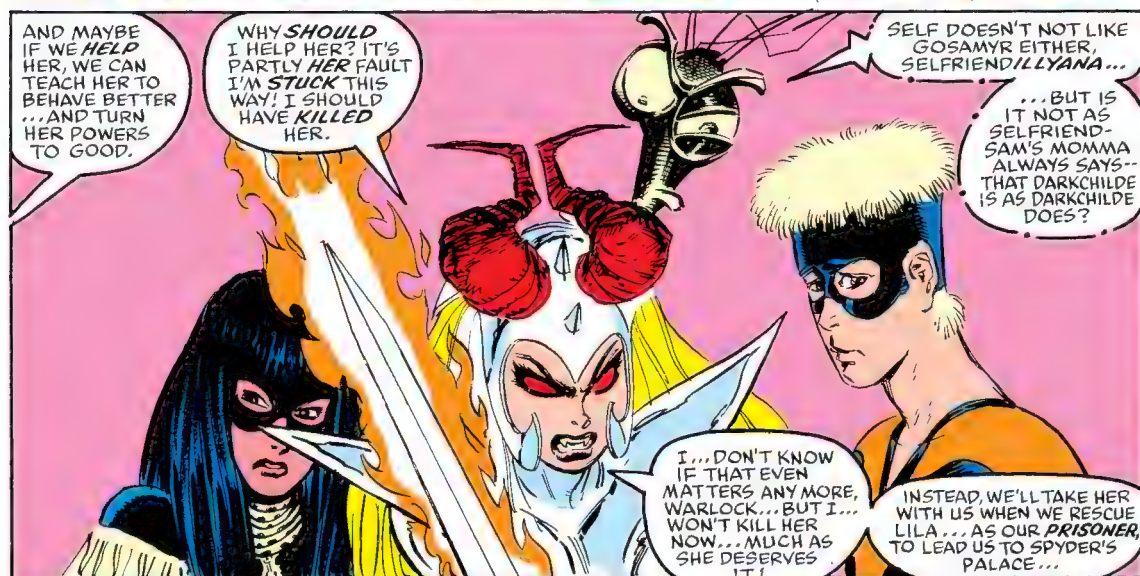


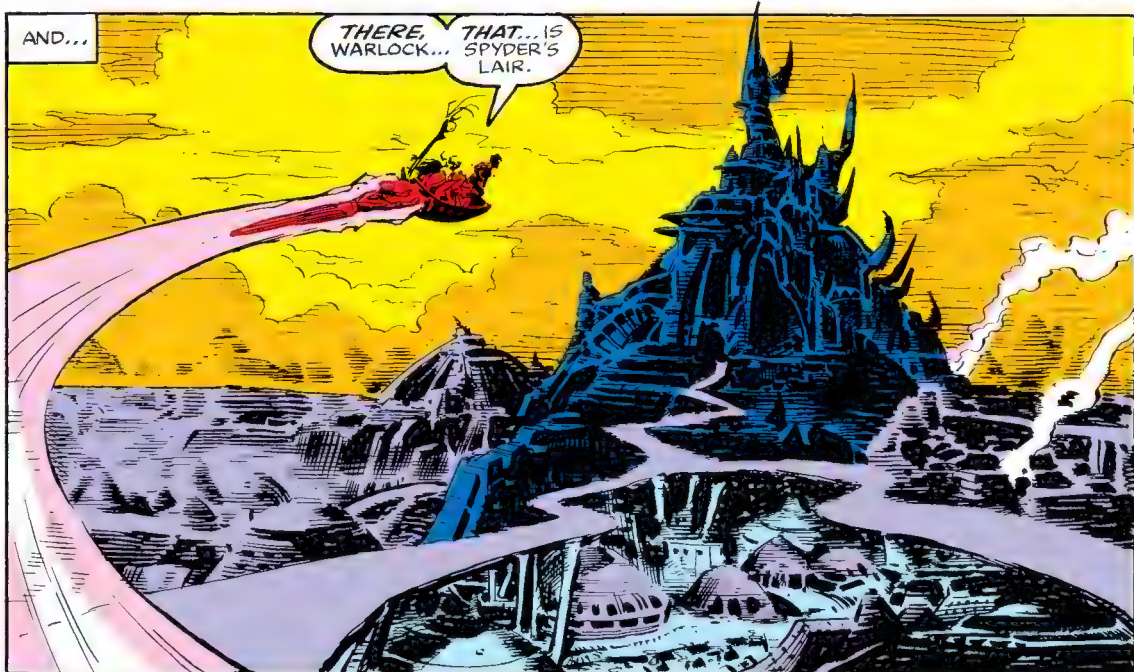


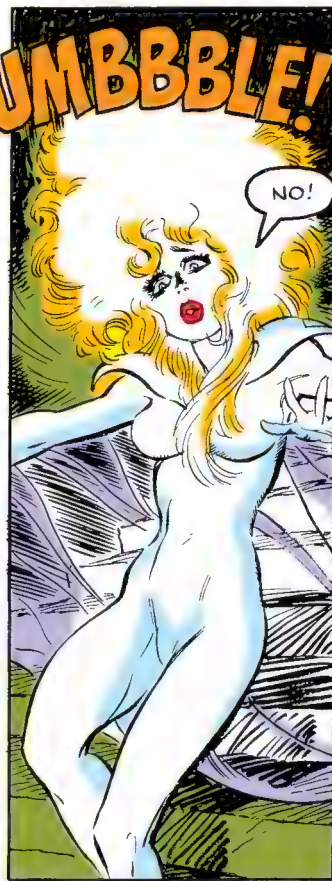
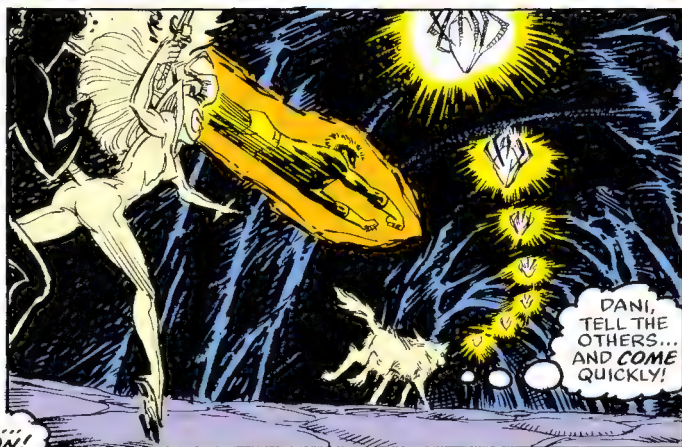


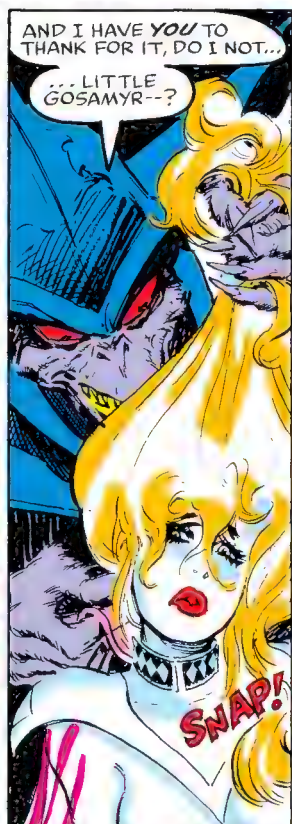
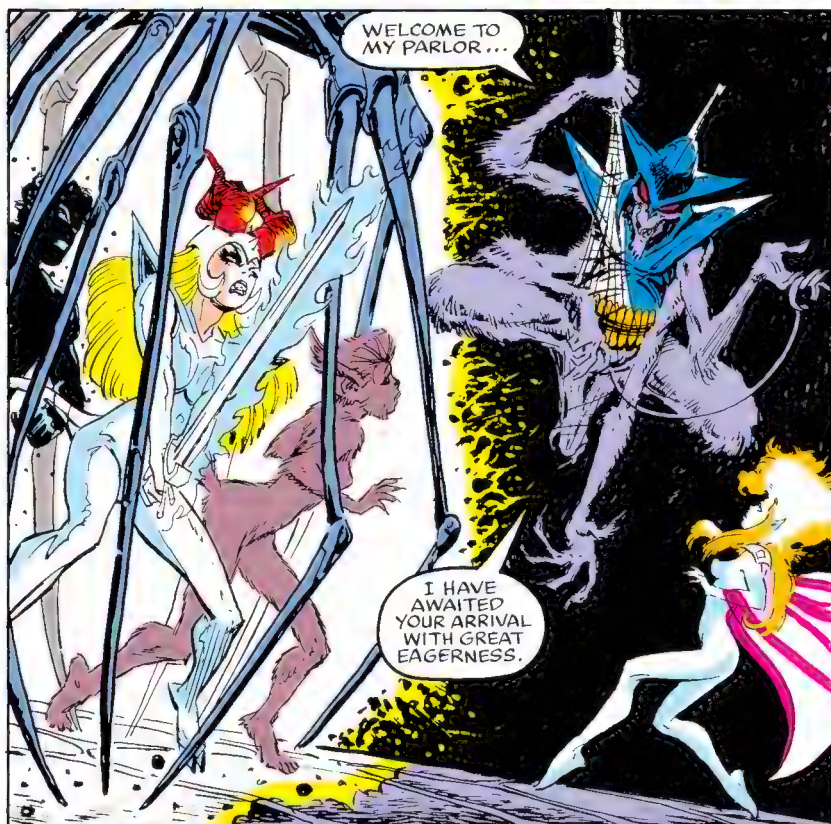
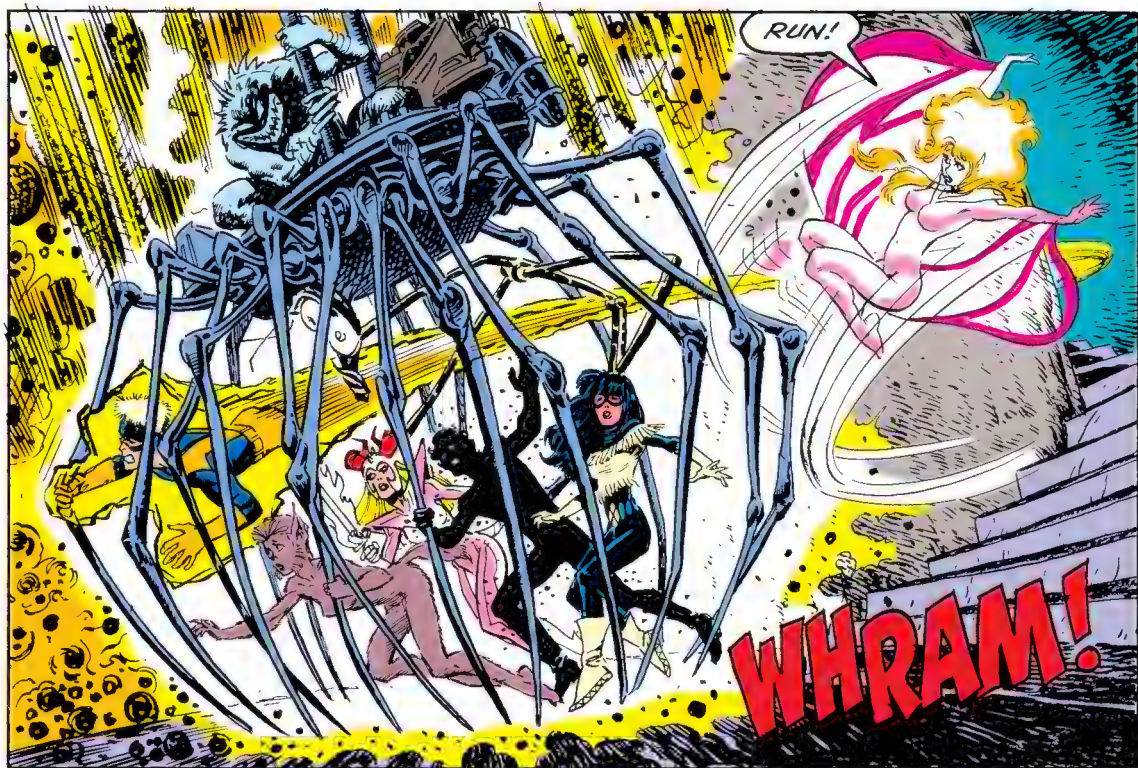












TRAPPED BY A FOUR-ARMED MANIAC ON A DISTANT PLANET!
 CAN THINGS GET MUCH WORSE THAN THIS? SURE THEY CAN--
 NEXT ISSUE IN--
SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY!
 (INFERNO IS ONLY AN ISSUE AWAY!)

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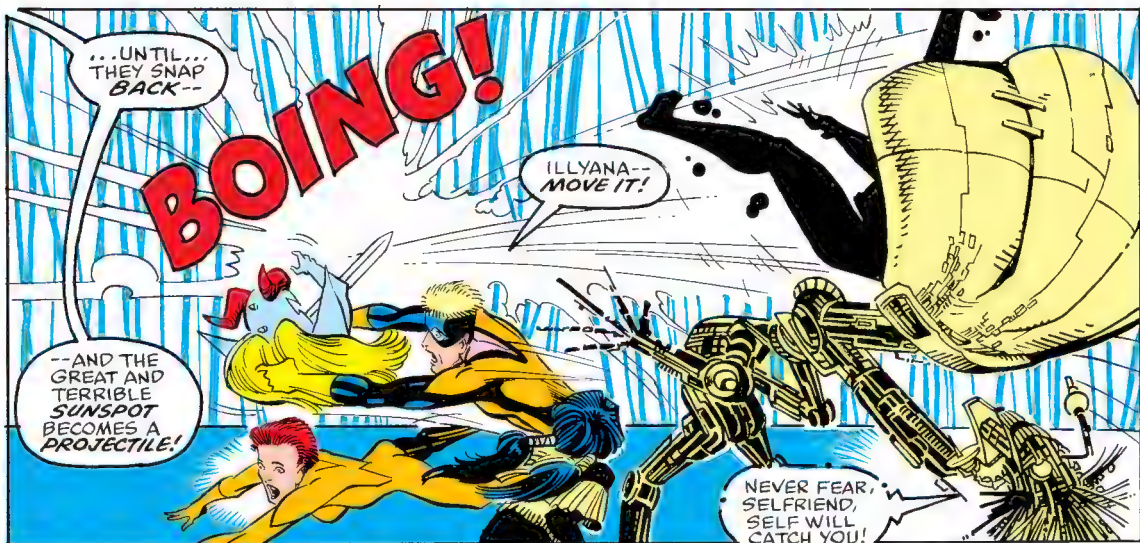


STAN LEE PRESENTS--

SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY



LOUISE SIMONSON TERRY SHOEMAKER AL MILGROM JOE ROSEN GLYNIS OLIVER BOB HARRAS TOM DEFALCO
WRITER PENCILER INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF



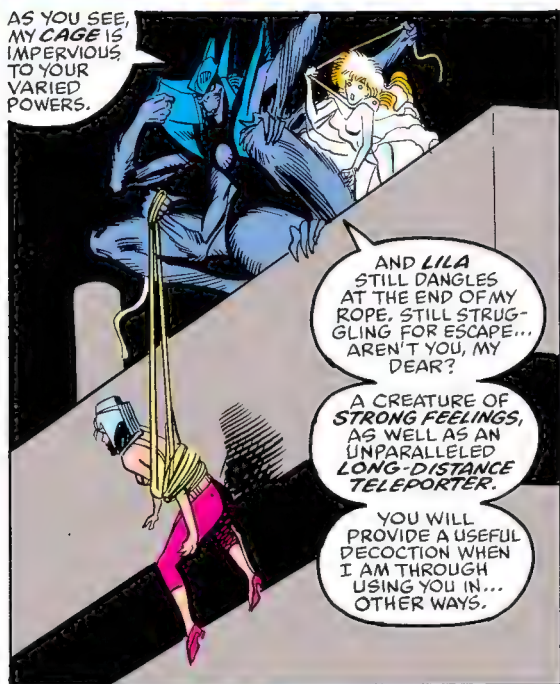
...UNTIL...
THEY SNAP
BACK--

BOING!

ILLYANA--
MOVE IT!

--AND THE
GREAT AND
TERRIBLE
SUNSPOT
BECOMES A
PROJECTILE!

NEVER FEAR,
SELFRIEND,
SELF WILL
CATCH YOU!

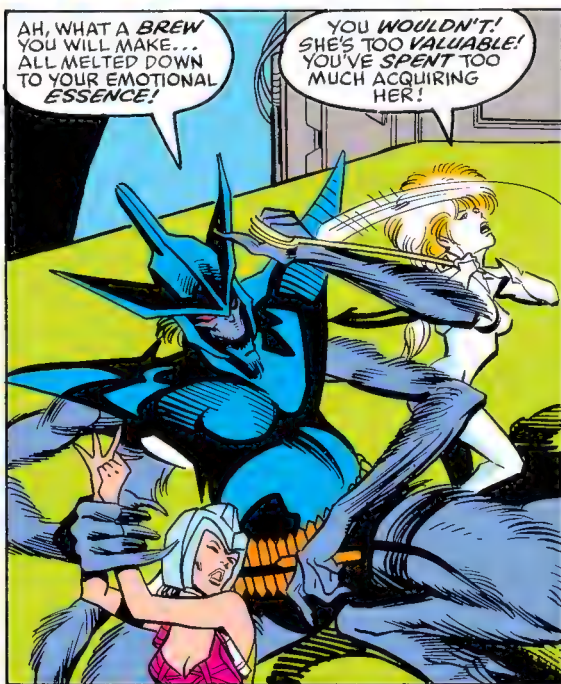


AS YOU SEE,
MY **CAGE** IS
IMPERVIOUS
TO YOUR
VARIED
POWERS.

AND **LILA**
STILL DANGLES
AT THE END OF MY
ROPE, STILL STRUG-
GLING FOR ESCAPE...
AREN'T YOU, MY
DEAR?

A CREATURE OF
STRONG FEELINGS,
AS WELL AS AN
UNPARALLELED
LONG-DISTANCE
TELEPORTER.

YOU WILL
PROVIDE A USEFUL
DECOCTION WHEN
I AM THROUGH
USING YOU IN...
OTHER WAYS.



AH, WHAT A **BREW**
YOU WILL MAKE...
ALL MELTED DOWN
TO YOUR EMOTIONAL
ESSENCE!

YOU WOULDN'T!
SHE'S TOO **VALUABLE!**
YOU'VE **SPENT** TOO
MUCH ACQUIRING
HER!

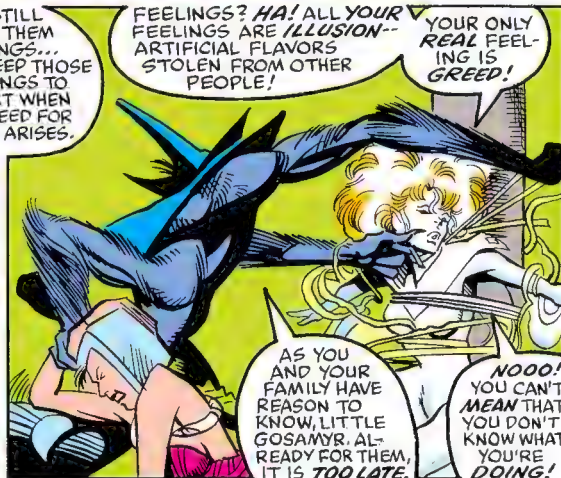


AS YOU KNOW,
LITTLE **GOSAMYR**,
I AM A COLLECTOR
...OF BODIES
AND OF SOULS.

I DISTILL
FROM THEM
FEELINGS...
AND KEEP THOSE
FEELINGS TO
DECOCT WHEN
THE NEED FOR
THEM ARISES.

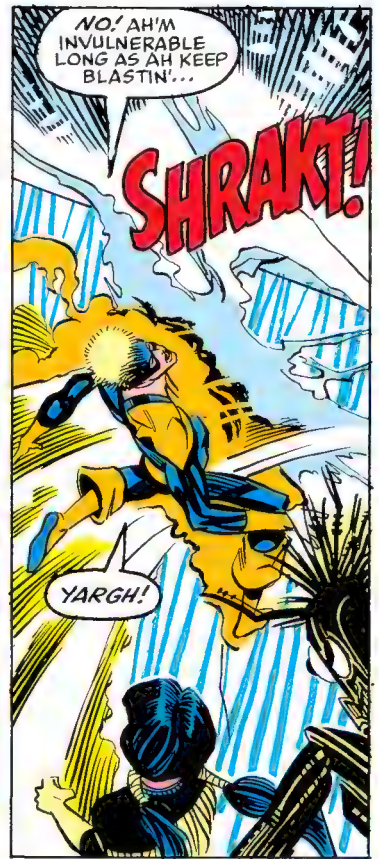
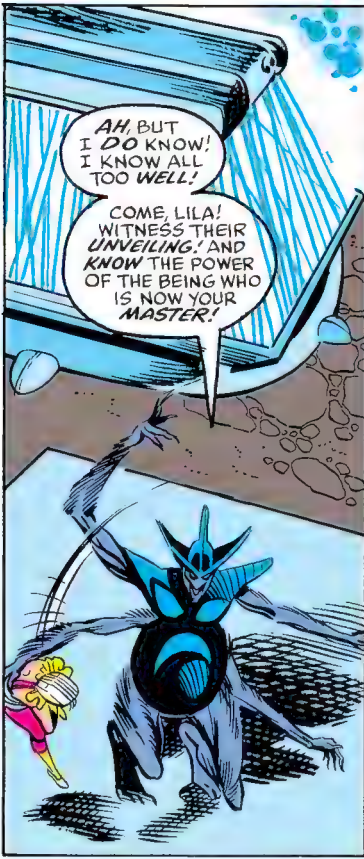
FEELINGS? **HA!** ALL YOUR
FEELINGS ARE **ILLUSION**--
ARTIFICIAL FLAVORS
STOLEN FROM OTHER
PEOPLE!

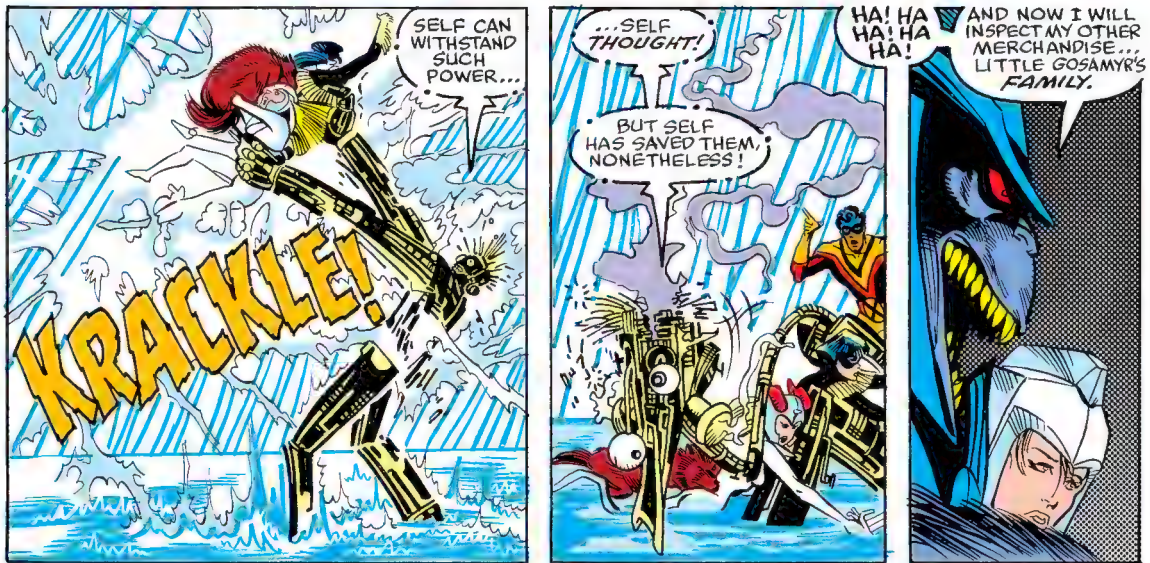
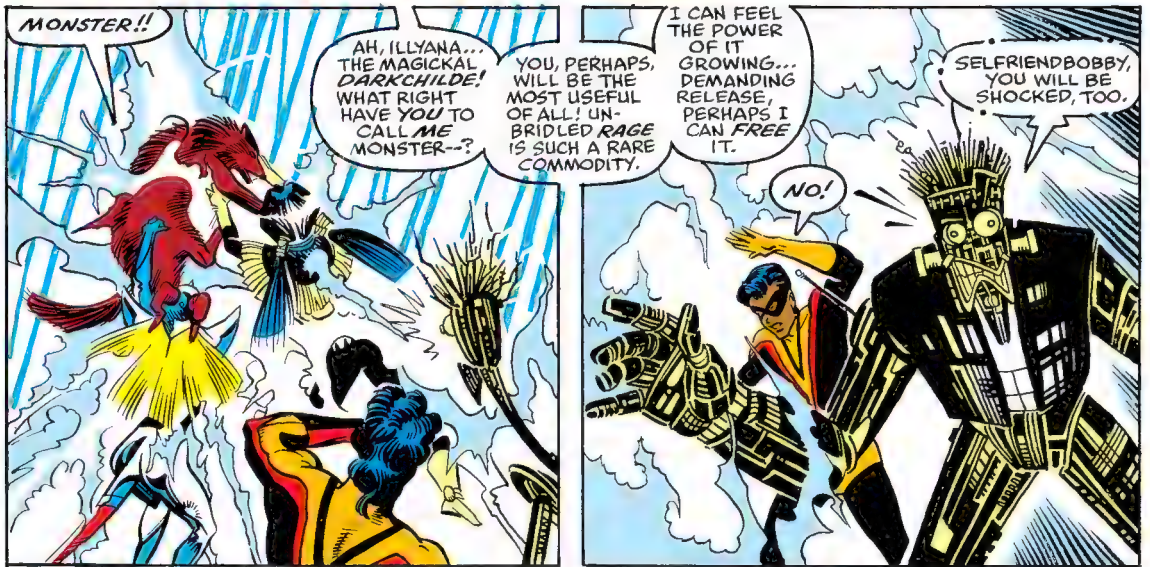
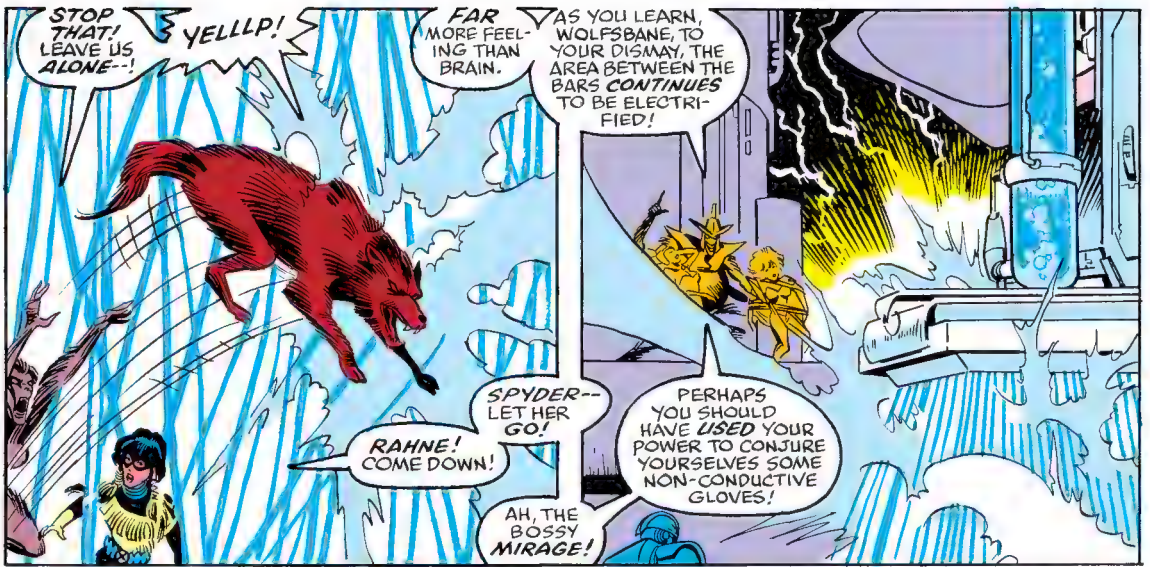
YOUR ONLY
REAL FEEL-
ING IS
GREED!

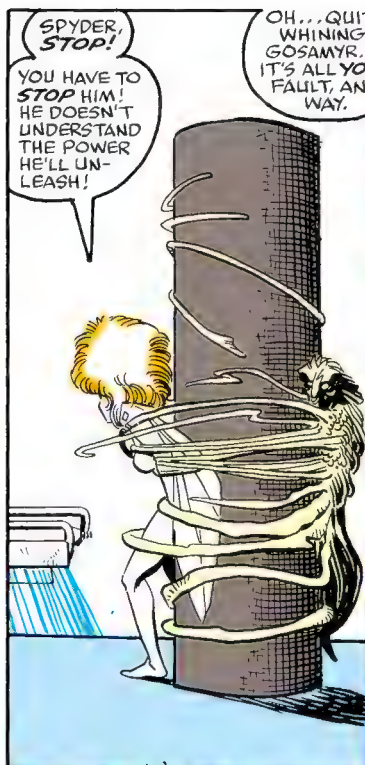


AS YOU
AND YOUR
FAMILY HAVE
REASON TO
KNOW, LITTLE
GOSAMYR. AL-
READY FOR THEM,
IT IS **TOO LATE.**

NOOO!
YOU CAN'T
MEAN THAT,
YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE
DOING!







SPYDER,
STOP!

YOU HAVE TO
STOP HIM!
HE DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND
THE POWER
HE'LL UN-
LEASH!

OH...QUIT
WHINING,
GOSAMYR.
IT'S ALL YOUR
FAULT, ANY-
WAY.



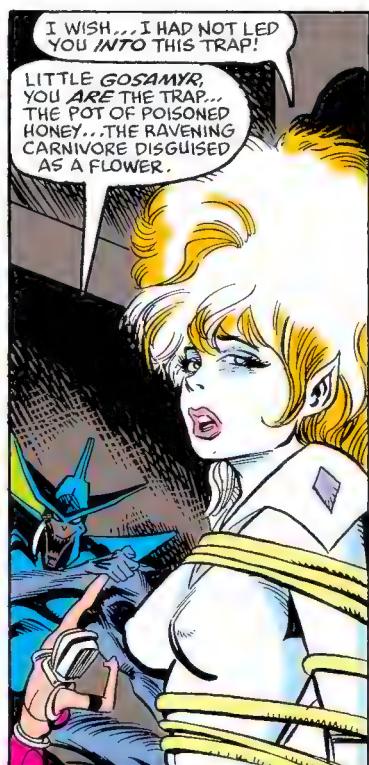
DON'T EVEN THINK IT, ILLYANA!
YOU **CAN'T** TELEPORT US OUT
OF HERE!

I
WISH...

FOR THAT WOULD
MEAN TRAVEL THROUGH
LIMBODIMENSION,
SELFRIEND, AND THAT
MUST BE LAST
RESORT!

LILA COULD
TELEPORT US
HOME...IF WE
COULD **FREE**
HER.

THAT'S WHAT WE CAME FOR...AND **THAT'S**
WHAT WE MUST **DO**...NOT FOR HER
SAKE, ALONE, BUT FOR **OURS!**



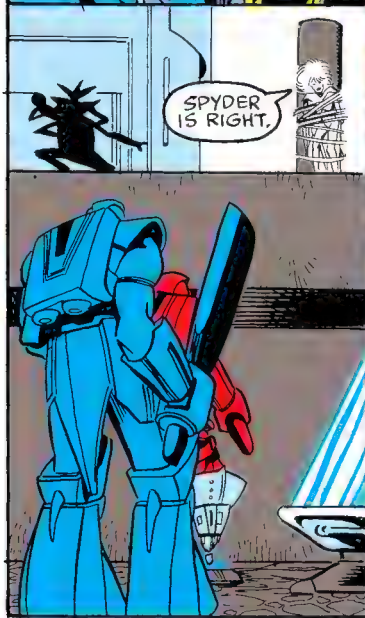
I WISH...I HAD NOT LED
YOU **INTO** THIS TRAP!

LITTLE **GOSAMYR**,
YOU **ARE** THE TRAP...
THE POT OF POISONED
HONEY...THE RAVENING
CARNIVORE DISGUISED
AS A FLOWER.



IT IS A **CHARAC-**
TERISTIC OF YOUR
ALIEN RACE THAT THOSE
ASSOCIATED WITH YOU
WILL TUMBLE TO THEIR
DEATHS...

...AS YOU
MUTANTS WILL,
SOON, TUMBLE
TO **YOURS!**



SPYDER
IS RIGHT.

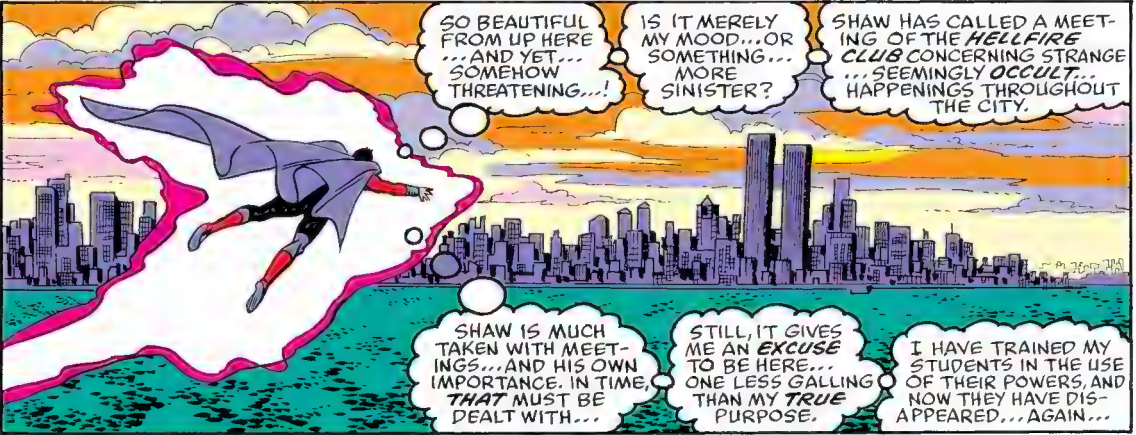


I SUSPECT...
KNOW, IN MY HEARTS,
WHAT SPYDER PLANS.
I HAVE TO **STOP** HIM.
TO SAVE THEIR LIVES.
TO SAVE THIS
WORLD.



IF ONLY
I COULD
FREE YOU!

WHILE HUNDREDS OF LIGHT-YEARS AWAY, THE SPIRES OF **MANHATTAN** GLEAM, BLUE AND GOLD, IN THE WANING SUNLIGHT...



SO BEAUTIFUL FROM UP HERE... AND YET... SOMEHOW THREATENING...

IS IT MERELY MY MOOD... OR SOMETHING... MORE SINISTER?

SHAW HAS CALLED A MEETING OF THE **HELLFIRE CLUB** CONCERNING STRANGE... SEEMINGLY **OCCULT**... HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

SHAW IS MUCH TAKEN WITH MEETINGS... AND HIS OWN IMPORTANCE. IN TIME, THAT MUST BE DEALT WITH...

STILL, IT GIVES ME AN **EXCUSE** TO BE HERE... ONE LESS GALLING THAN MY **TRUE** PURPOSE.

I HAVE TRAINED MY STUDENTS IN THE USE OF THEIR POWERS, AND NOW THEY HAVE DISAPPEARED... AGAIN...



...ON SOME FOOLISH **RESCUE MISSION** AGAINST ALIEN INVADERS... OR SO I HAVE BEEN TOLD.

THAT THEY WOULD LEAVE SCHOOL GROUNDS WITHOUT PERMISSION, **GALLS** ME!

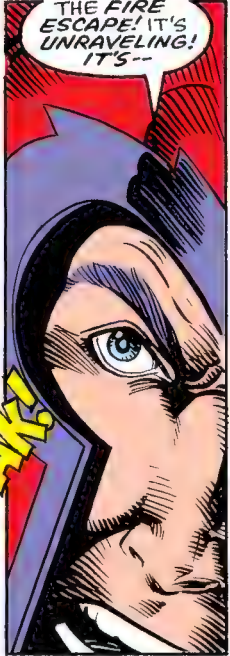


AS **WHITE KING** OF THE **HELLFIRE CLUB**, I HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS TO OUR EQUIPMENT AS OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR **INNER CIRCLE**...

...BUT TO USE THAT EQUIPMENT TO SCAN FOR THEM YET AGAIN... AND TO HAVE THE OTHERS **KNOW** WHAT I'M DOING...

...IS HUMILIATION BEYOND ENDURANCE.

CREAK!



THE **FIRE ESCAPE!** IT'S UNRAVELING! IT'S--

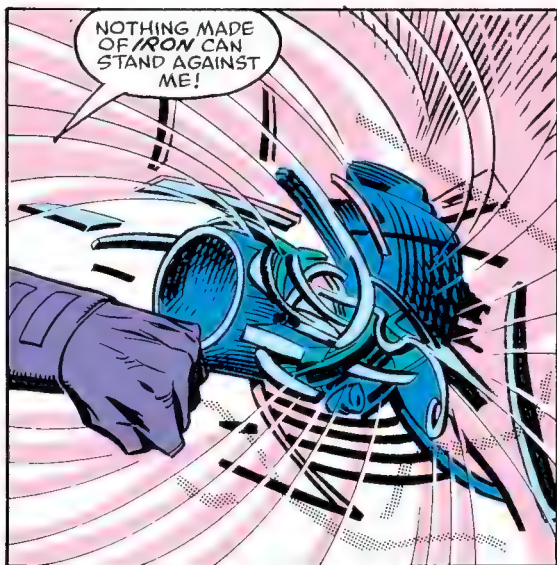


--ATTACKING ME!

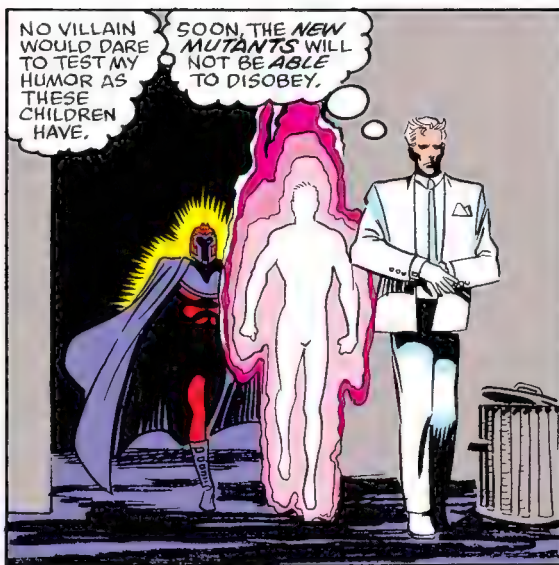
BACK! BACK, MONSTER! YIELD, I SAY!



YOU FACE **MAGNETO**, MASTER OF **MAGNETISM!**

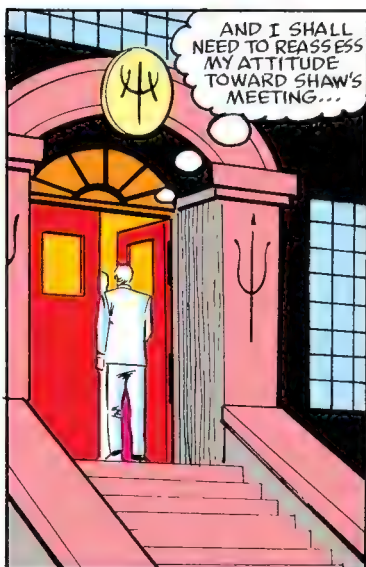


NOTHING MADE
OF **IRON** CAN
STAND AGAINST
ME!

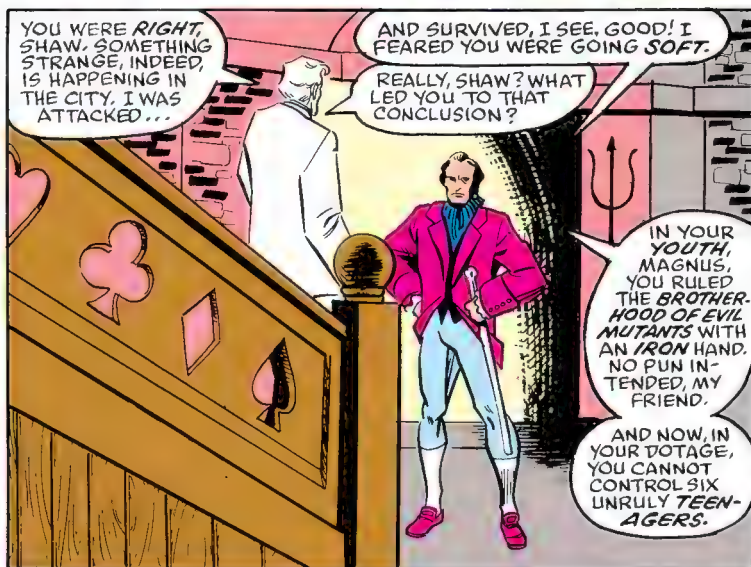


NO VILLAIN
WOULD DARE
TO TEST MY
HUMOR AS
THESE CHILDREN
HAVE.

SOON, THE **NEW**
MUTANTS WILL
NOT BE **ABLE**
TO DISOBEY.



AND I SHALL
NEED TO REASSESS
MY ATTITUDE
TOWARD SHAW'S
MEETING...



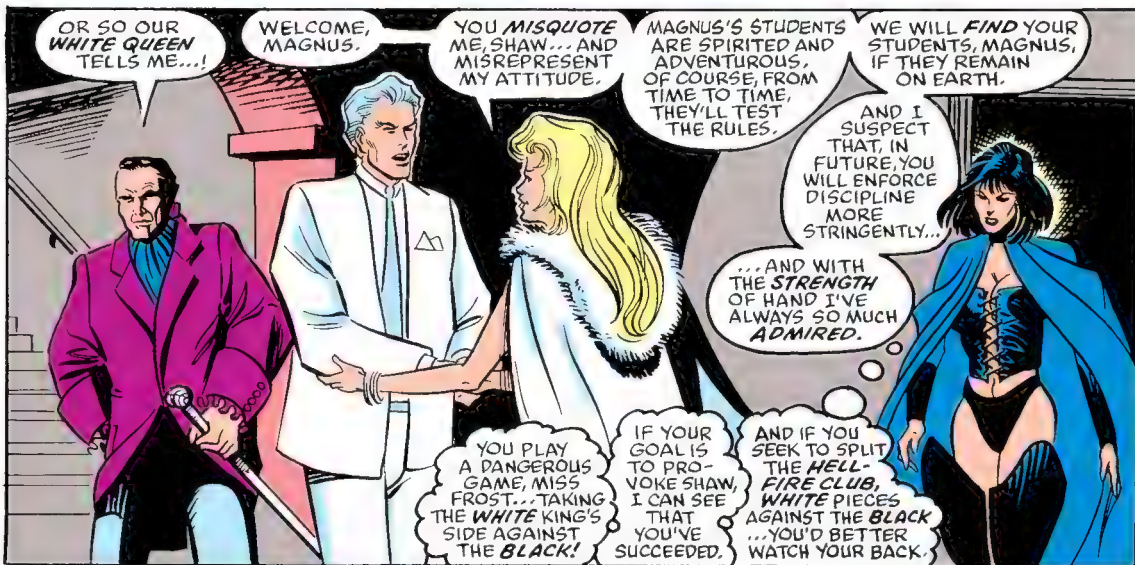
YOU WERE **RIGHT**,
SHAW. SOMETHING
STRANGE, INDEED,
IS HAPPENING IN
THE CITY. I WAS
ATTACKED...

AND SURVIVED, I SEE, GOOD! I
FEARED YOU WERE GOING **SOFT**.

REALLY, SHAW? WHAT
LED YOU TO THAT
CONCLUSION?

IN YOUR
YOUTH,
MAGNUS,
YOU RULED
THE **BROTHER-**
HOOD OF EVIL
MUTANTS WITH
AN **IRON** HAND.
NO PUN IN-
TENDED, MY
FRIEND.

AND NOW, IN
YOUR **DOTAGE**,
YOU CANNOT
CONTROL SIX
UNRULY **TEEN-**
AGERS.



OR SO OUR
WHITE QUEEN
TELLS ME...!

WELCOME,
MAGNUS.

YOU **MISQUOTE**
ME, SHAW... AND
MISREPRESENT
MY ATTITUDE.

MAGNUS'S STUDENTS
ARE SPIRITED AND
ADVENTUROUS,
OF COURSE, FROM
TIME TO TIME,
THEY'LL TEST
THE RULES.

WE WILL **FIND** YOUR
STUDENTS, MAGNUS,
IF THEY REMAIN
ON EARTH.

AND I
SUSPECT
THAT, IN
FUTURE, YOU
WILL ENFORCE
DISCIPLINE
MORE
STRINGENTLY...

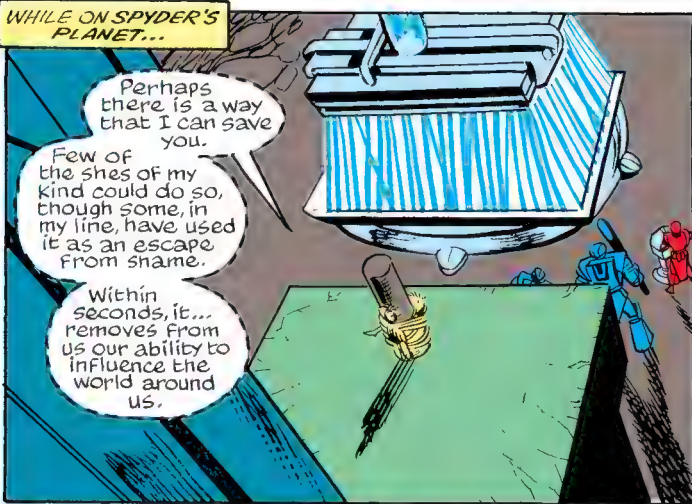
...AND WITH
THE **STRENGTH**
OF HAND I'VE
ALWAYS SO MUCH
ADMIRED.

YOU PLAY
A DANGEROUS
GAME, MISS
FROST... TAKING
THE **WHITE KING**'S
SIDE AGAINST
THE **BLACK**!

IF YOUR
GOAL IS
TO PRO-
VOKE SHAW,
I CAN SEE
THAT
YOU'VE
SUCCEEDED.

AND IF YOU
SEEK TO SPLIT
THE **HELL-**
FIRE CLUB,
WHITE PIECES
AGAINST THE **BLACK**
...YOU'D BETTER
WATCH YOUR BACK.

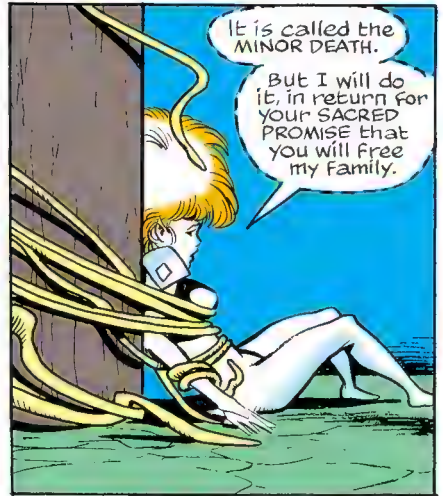
WHILE ON SPYDER'S PLANET...



Perhaps there is a way that I can save you.

Few of the shes of my kind could do so, though some, in my line, have used it as an escape from shame.

Within seconds, it... removes from us our ability to influence the world around us.



It is called the MINOR DEATH.

But I will do it, in return for your SACRED PROMISE that you will free my family.

SELFRIENDS, IT IS NOT LIKE GOSAMYR'S KIND TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES... OR ANY OTHER BEINGS.

THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO TRICK THEM INTO KILLING EACH OTHER.

Chill out, Warlock! People change...

And people aren't necessarily ALWAYS like their parents... ARE THEY?

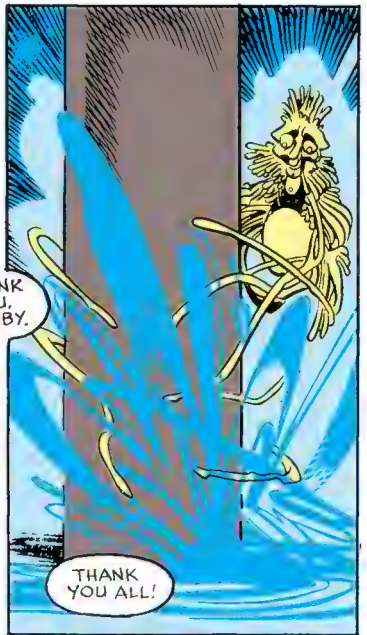
Your OWN father tried to KILL all of us!



OF COURSE we'll rescue your family, Gosamyr, if we can. I've already PROMISED.

You don't have to--

THANK YOU, BOBBY.

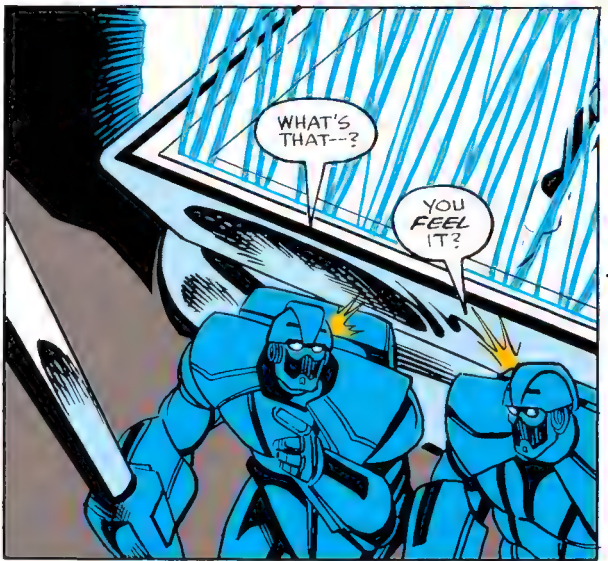


THANK YOU ALL!



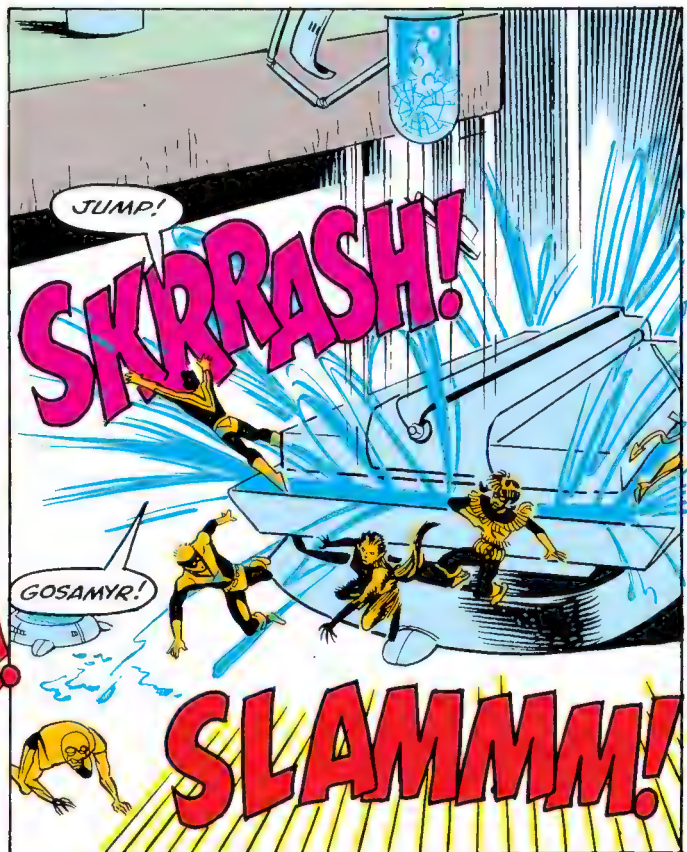
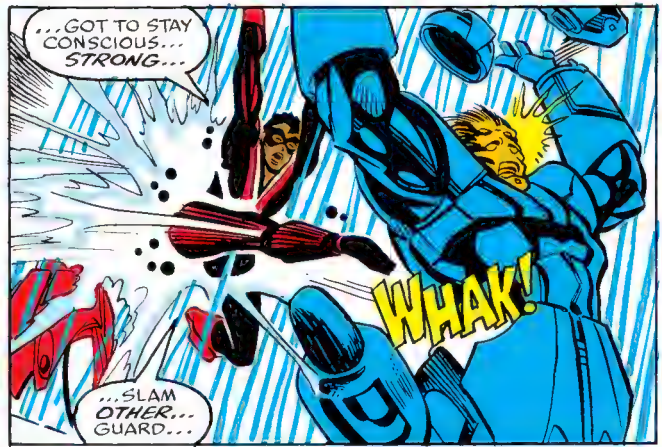
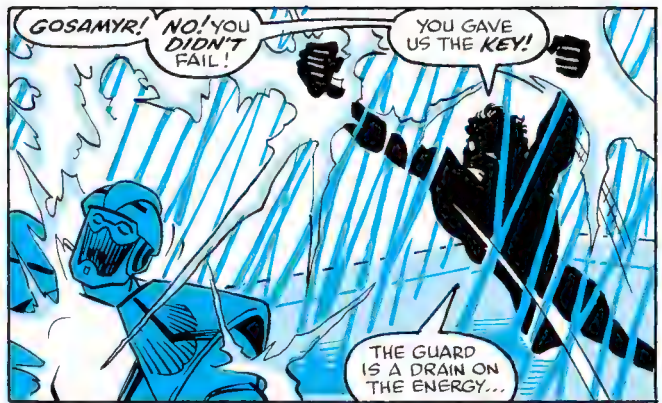
GOSAMYR!

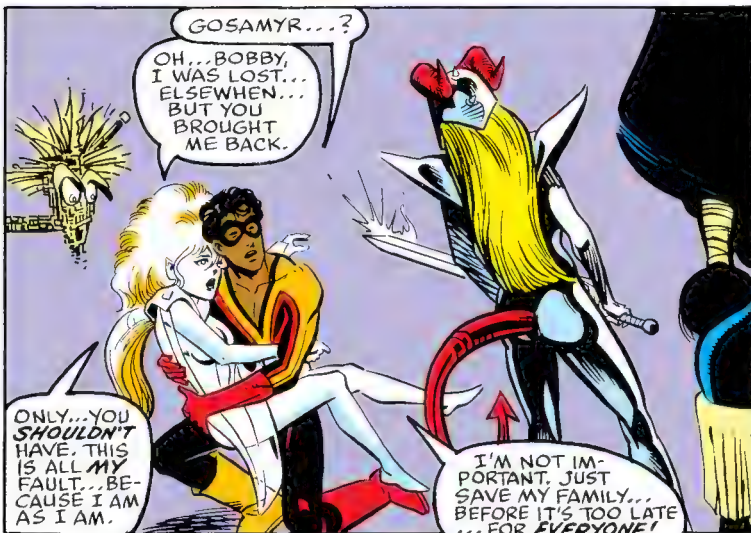
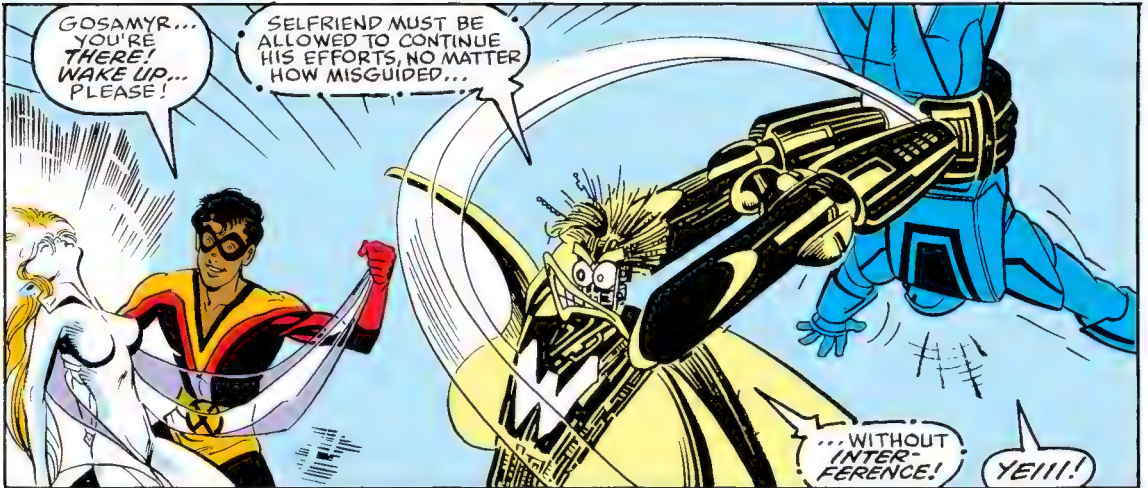
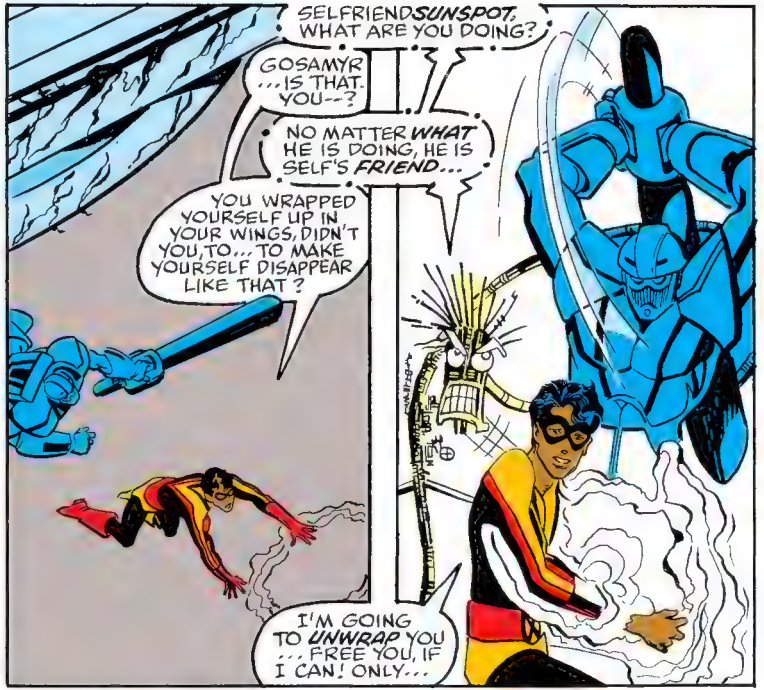
SHE'S DISAPPEARED!

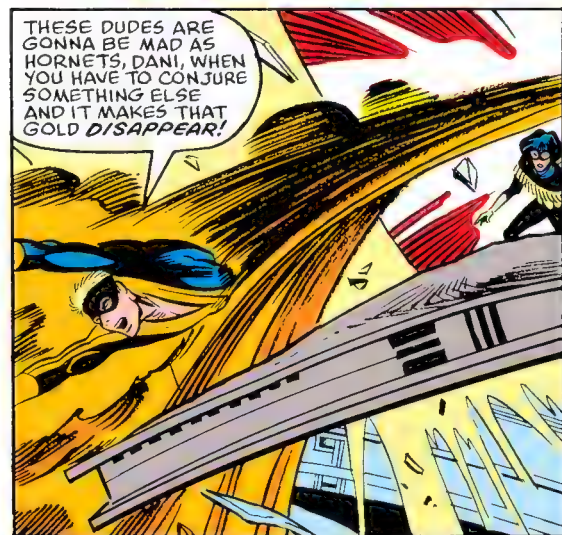
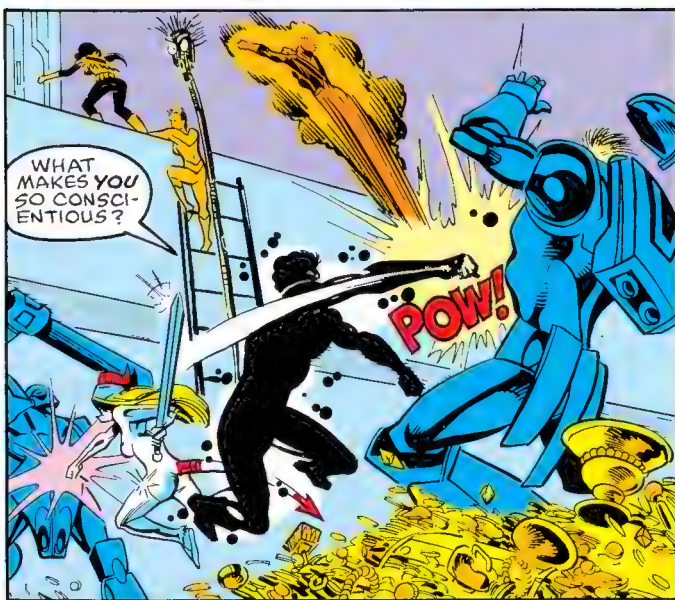
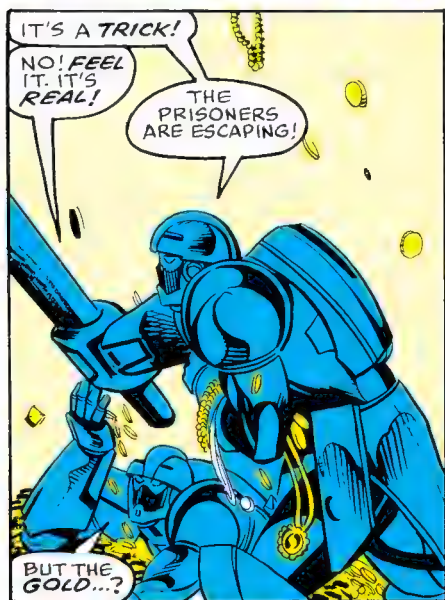


WHAT'S THAT--?

YOU FEEL IT?







MINUTES
LATER...

... I HAVE FORCED
GOSAMYR'S FAMILY
OUT OF THEIR LARVAL
STATE AND ONTO THEIR
NEXT STAGE OF
DEVELOPMENT!

AND
THIS
IS THE
RESULT!

STRANDS... THE
SILKEN STRANDS...
WOVEN INTO GIANT
COCOONS-- UNSPEAK-
ABLY VALUABLE AND
MAGICAL...

...PRODUCT
OF THE
RAREST,
MOST DEADLY
CREATURES IN
THE UNIVERSE.

EACH THREAD
WORTH A MILLION
TIMES ITS WEIGHT
IN PRECIOUS GOLD.
I HAVE **TONS** OF
THEM...

YOU'RE MAD,
SPYDER. I, TOO,
HAVE HEARD
OF THESE
CREATURES. IT'S
RUMORED THAT
THEY CAN DE-
STROY WORLDS.

IT'S **MADNESS**, TO
RELEASE THEM, HERE.

MY GUARDS WILL
KILL THEM DURING
THE FIRST FEW
SECONDS AS THEY
EMERGE, SLUGGISH,
FROM THEIR
COCOON.

THERE
IS AN 89.79%
CHANCE
OF TOTAL
SUCCESS.

AH, EFFLUVIUM OF CON-
FIDENCE! I'VE RESEARCHED
IT CAREFULLY, LILA, FROM
THE ANCIENT RECORDS.

MY ESCAPE ROUTE IS
PLANNED, AND MOST OF
MY WEALTH IS STORED
ELSEWHERE.

IT IS AN
ACCEPTABLE
RISK.

WHAT'S HE SAYIN'?

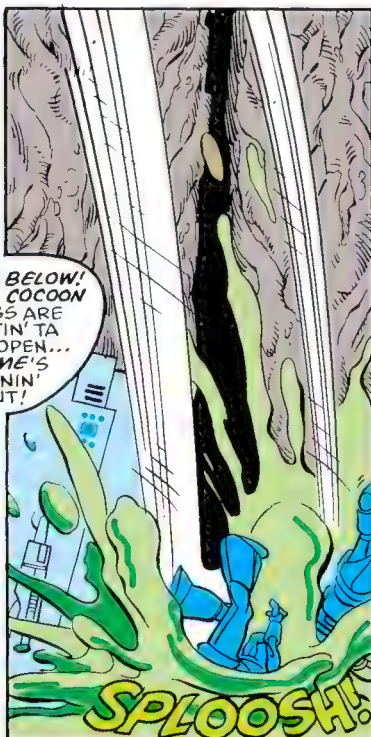
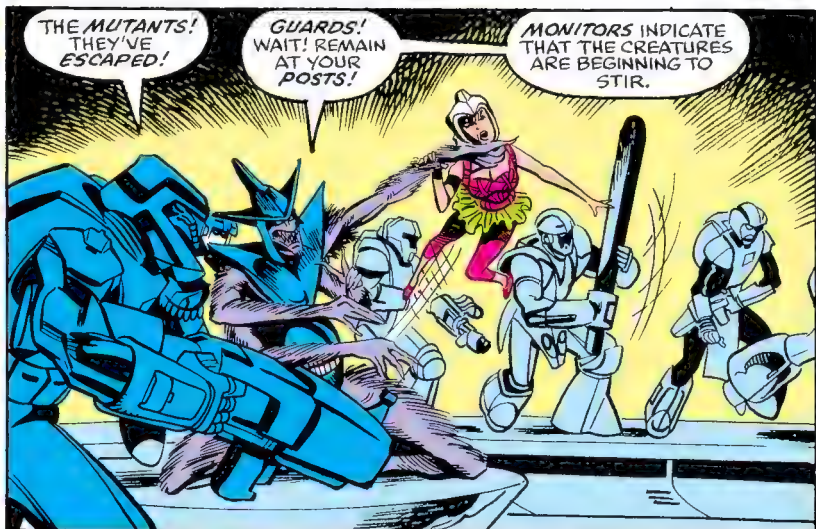
THAT TA GAIN THE
WEALTH REPRESENTED
BY THOSE COCOONS...
HE'LL WILLINGLY
THREATEN A
WORLD?

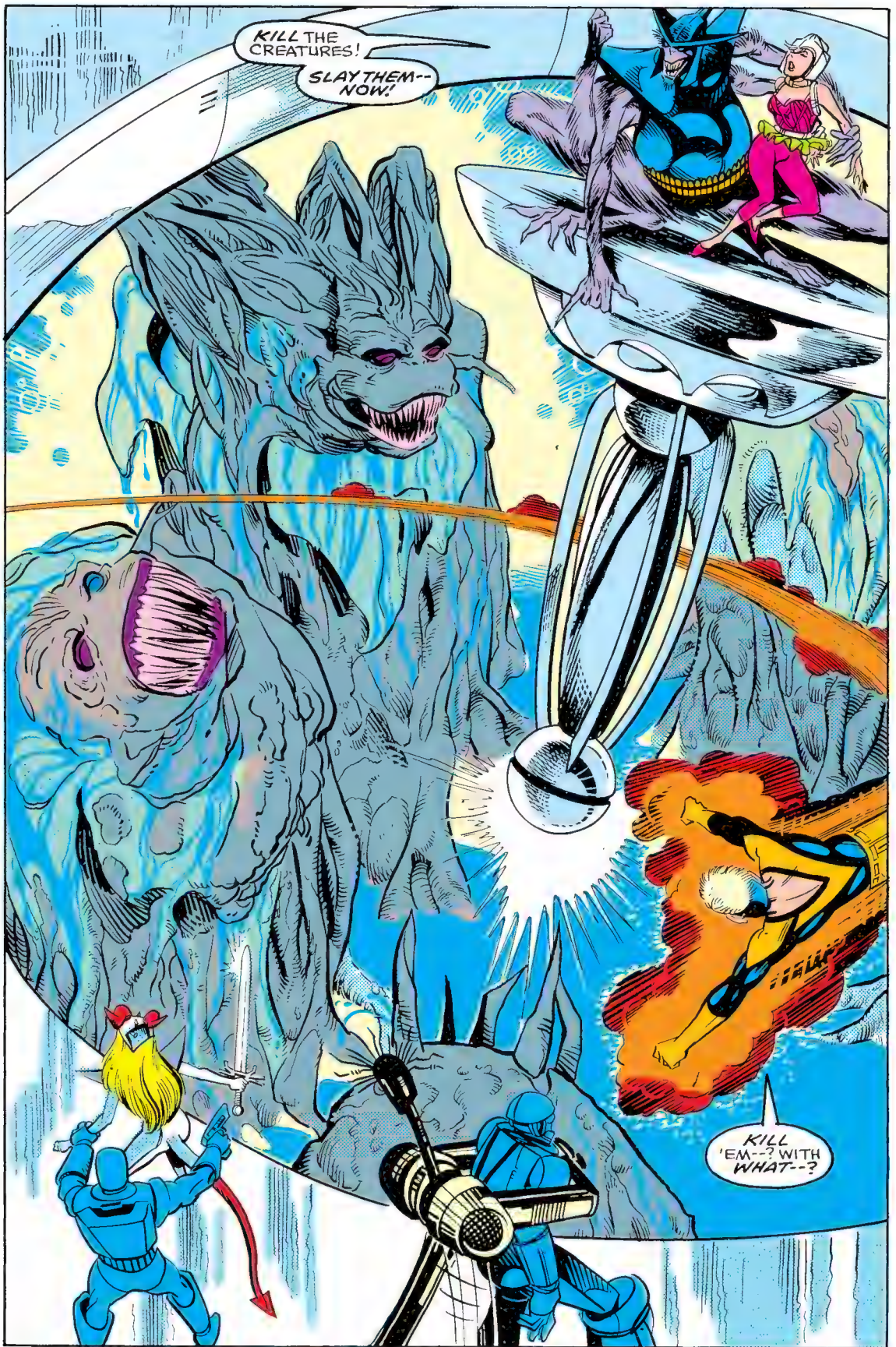
GOSAMYR,
DOESN'T
SPYDER
HAVE YOUR
FAMILY...?

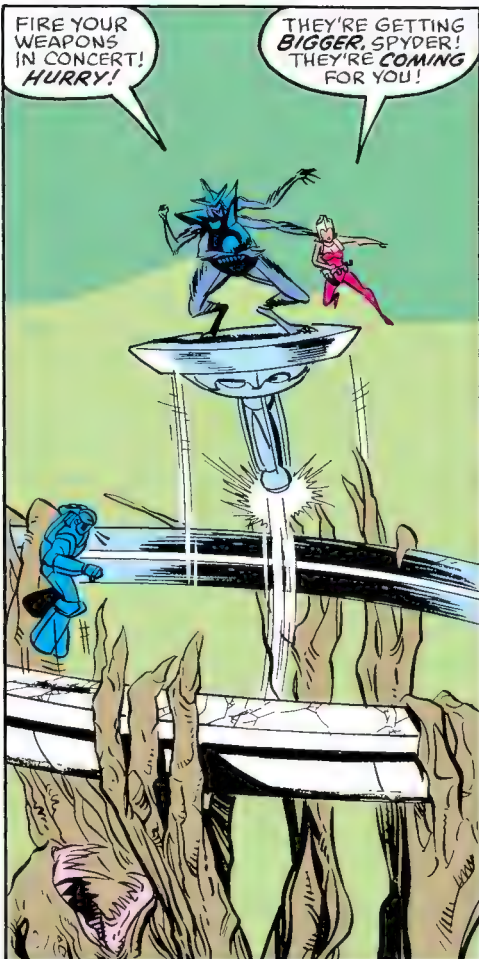
THOSE
COCOONS...
OR WHAT'S
INSIDE... **AS**
MY FAMILY,
OR... IT
WAS...

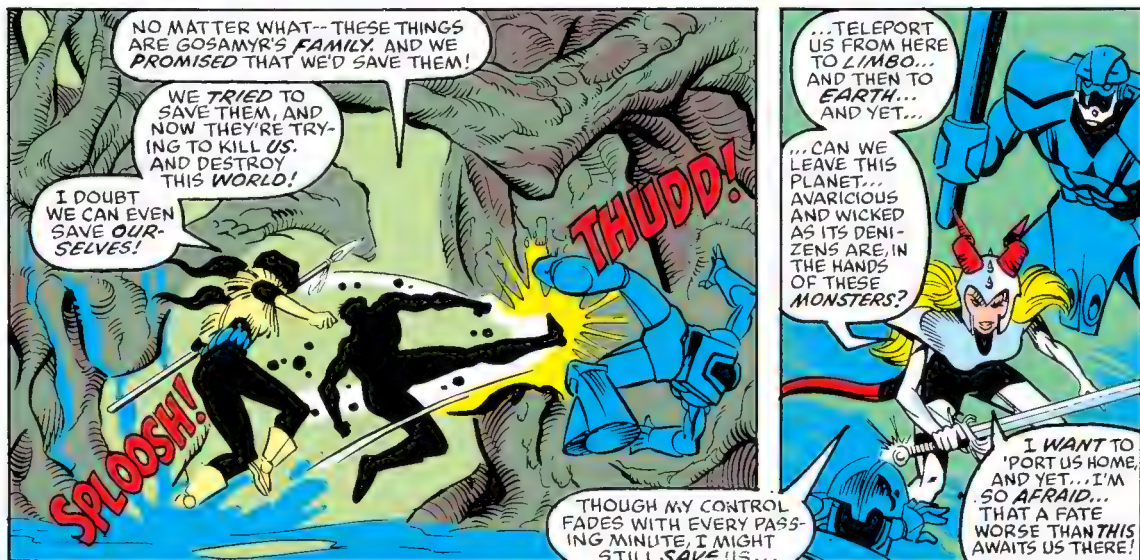
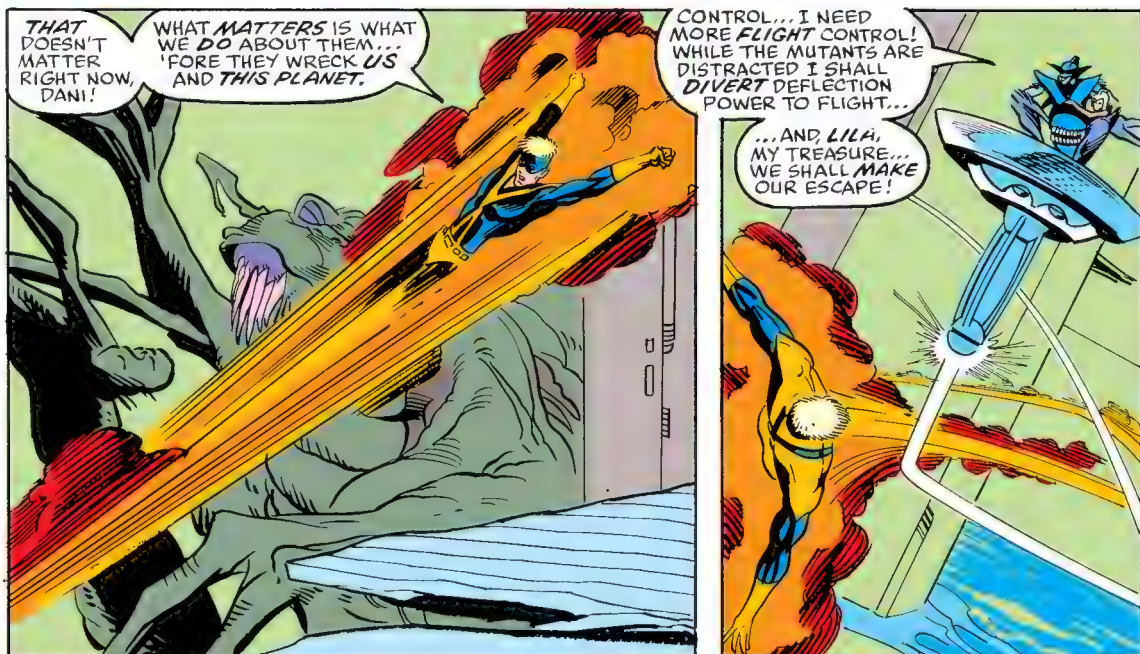
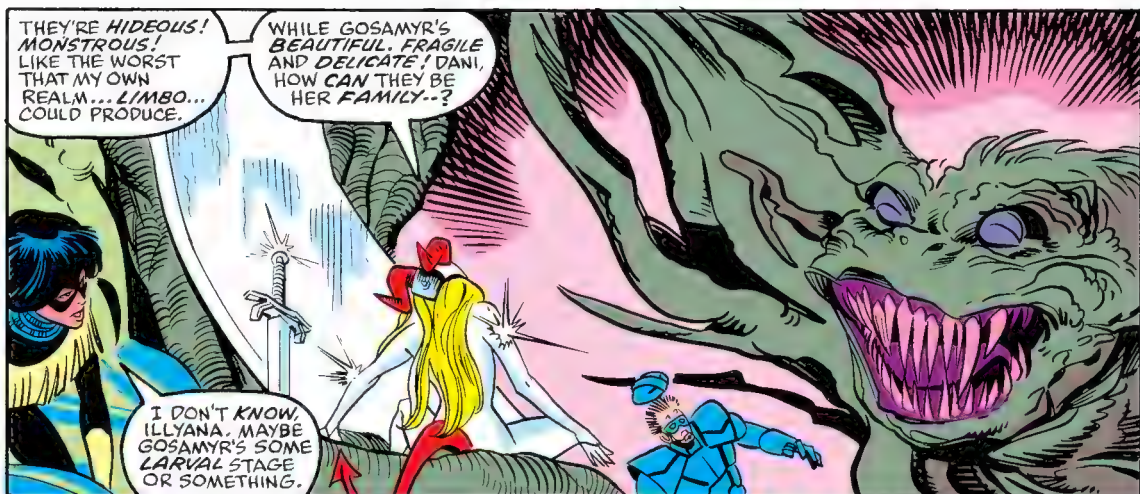
SHE
FAINTED!

CLANG!











BAD MOVE, SPYDER! ADDITIONAL FLIGHT POWER MIGHT'VE COME IN REAL USEFUL... IF YOU'D GOTTEN THE CHANCE TA USE IT!



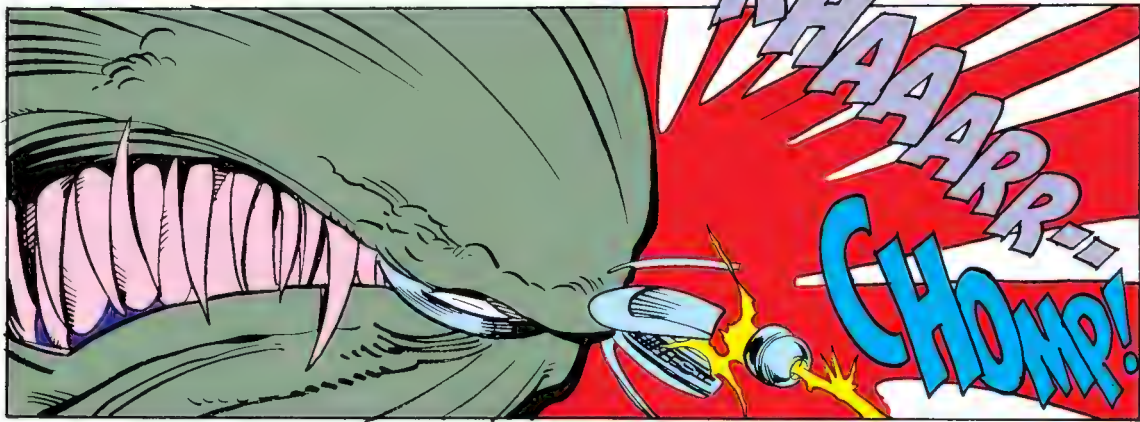
DON'T WORRY, ILLYANA! LILA'S A TELEPORTER, TOO. A LONG-DISTANCE TELEPORTER, AREN'T YOU, LILA?

AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO USE LIMBO AS A WAY-STATION.

WE'VE SAVED YOU, LILA... IT WILL TAKE NO MORE THAN A MINUTE TO RIP OFF THE POWER-DAMPER THAT HOLDS YOU HELPLESS AND--



RAHNE! LILA! NO!



RHAAARR-CHOMP!



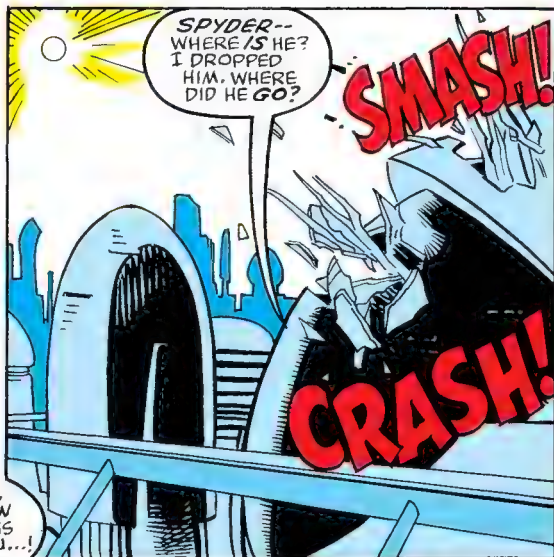
VARROOOM! SHREDD!

SAM! WE'VE DONE IT! WE'VE SAVED HER!

AND NOW, LILA, YOU'RE FREE--IN POWER AS WELL AS BODY!

SAM... THANK YOU!

RAHNE, I... KNOW WHAT THIS COST YOU...!



SPYDER-- WHERE IS HE? I DROPPED HIM. WHERE DID HE GO?

SMASH!

CRASH!



HE ESCAPED, SAM! GET BACK! THESE MONSTERS ARE BREAKING THROUGH THE ROOF!



ONCE THEY'RE OUT, THEY'LL THREATEN THE CITY.

MORE THAN THE CITY, DANI. SPACE-LEGENDS SAY THEY'VE DESTROYED SOLAR SYSTEMS.

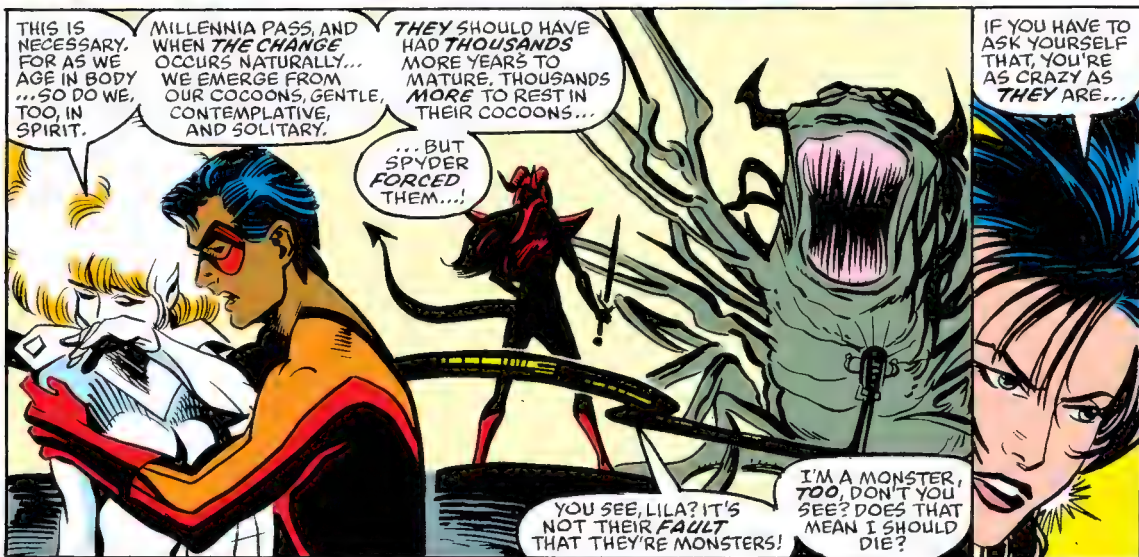
WE HAVE TO STOP THEM! BUT HOW--?

I COULD TELEPORT THEM INTO THE SUN...!

NO! YOU'D HAVE TO GO WITH THEM! IT'S THE WAY YOUR POWER WORKS!

THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY!

IN OUR...YOUTH-FORM, MY PEOPLE BEHAVE AS CHILDREN...PROUD AND GREEDY AND VAIN.



THIS IS NECESSARY. FOR AS WE AGE IN BODY ...SO DO WE, TOO, IN SPIRIT.

MILLENNIA PASS, AND WHEN THE CHANGE OCCURS NATURALLY... WE EMERGE FROM OUR COCOONS, GENTLE, CONTEMPLATIVE, AND SOLITARY.

THEY SHOULD HAVE HAD THOUSANDS MORE YEARS TO MATURE, THOUSANDS MORE TO REST IN THEIR COCOONS...

...BUT SPYDER FORCED THEM...!

IF YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF THAT, YOU'RE AS CRAZY AS THEY ARE...

I'M A MONSTER, TOO, DON'T YOU SEE? DOES THAT MEAN I SHOULD DIE?

YOU SEE, LILA? IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT THAT THEY'RE MONSTERS!





SAM, WHAT HAPPENED--? WHAT DID SHE DO--?

YOU SAW! ALL OF YOU SAW,

SHE TOOK THEM... SHE MUST HAVE...

...PORTED WITH THEM INTO THE SUN! SACRIFICED HERSELF... TO SAVE THIS WORLD... TO SAVE US ALL!

THE GRAND, GENEROUS GESTURE! THE FINAL BRAVADO... IT... WAS SO LIKE HER...!

NOT EVEN THEY COULD SURVIVE THAT CONFLAGRATION...!

GOSAMYR, WE TRIED, I'M... SO SORRY.

IT IS I WHO APOLOGIZE... FOR YOUR PAIN... AND LOSS.

WHEN I ASKED FOR YOUR HELP, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT SPYDER HAD GONE SO FAR. I HOPED... WE COULD ARRIVE IN TIME.

LILA... DID WHAT WAS RIGHT.

LEFT TO OURSELVES... WE AWAKE TO OUR PENULTIMATE FORM SLOWLY, IN PRIVACY AND IN PEACE.

NO ONE HEARS OF *THOSE* AWAKENINGS... SINCE PEACE IS NEVER NEWS.

BUT IF A TRANSFORMATION IS *FORCED*, YOU SEE WHAT OCCURS... WHAT WE *BECOME*.

EVEN *THE BROOD* FEAR US, THEN. NOW MY FAMILY... CAN REST IN PEACE, AND I AM ALL ALONE.

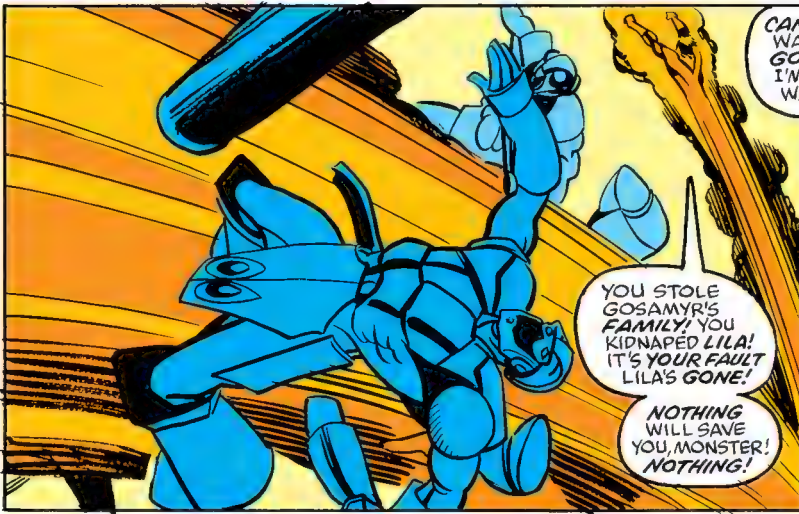
NO, YOU'RE *NOT*, GOSAMYR. YOU HAVE US. YOU HAVE *ME*.



THEY DESTROYED MY PALACE! THEY THREATENED YOUR WORLD!

GET THEM!

SPYDER! YOU CAUSED THIS!

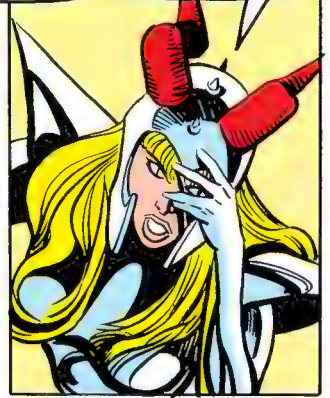


CANNONBALL,
WAIT! LILA'S
GONE...AND
I'M OUR ONLY
WAY HOME!

BUT MY POWER TO CALL
A TELEPORTATION
DISC...TO DIRECT IT
...FADES WITH EVERY
SECOND WE REMAIN.

YOU STOLE
GOSAMYR'S
FAMILY! YOU
KIDNAPED LILA!
IT'S YOUR FAULT
LILA'S GONE!

NOTHING
WILL SAVE
YOU, MONSTER!
NOTHING!



I FEAR, ALREADY,
IT'S TOO LATE!

COME, SELFRIENDSAM,
WE MUST LEAVE--
TIME IS OF ESSENCE!



AND IF SELFRIENDS
ARE STUCK IN LIMBO...

...HOW MUCH
WORSE CAN LIMBO
BE THAN THIS--?



WELCOME,
DARKCHILDE, TO
MY INFERNAL
REALM!

S'YM!

LORD S'YM TO YOU,
SWEETLINGS!

DESTINY IS
EVERYTHING...
AND S'YM WILL
RULE ALL LIMBO
...AND BEYOND!

GET
THEM!

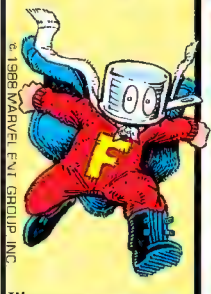
NEXT ISSUE--
INFERNO!

THE
CONFLAGRATION
BEGINS!

Marvel Age Annual #4 featured a short story that served as a teaser for Wolverine's first ongoing solo series.

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PREVIEWS OF
WOLVERINE™
SPEEDBALL™, DAMAGE
CONTROL™ AND A
SHADOWLINE SAGA!™

MARVEL AGE ANNUAL



WOLVERINE

THIS IS
MADRIPOOR.

TO THOSE WHO
KNOW, THE WILDEST
CITY IN THE WORLD,
A PLACE WHERE
ANYTHING GOES AND
EVERYTHING HAS
ITS PRICE.

MY
KINDA
TOWN.

CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
JOHN BUSCEMA, BREAKDOWNS
KLAUS JANSON, FINISHED ART
TOM ORZECOWSKI, LETTERER
GREGORY WRIGHT, COLORIST
JIM SALICRUP, EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF

I'M **WOLVERINE**.

TO THOSE WHO KNOW,
I'M ONE OF THE MOST
DANGEROUS MEN IN
THE WORLD.

YOU WANT
TO FIND OUT HOW
DANGEROUS...

...CROSS ME
SOME TIME.

JUST REMEMBER...

... TO SAY YOUR
PRAYERS, FIRST.



I'M AN X-MAN.

THAT MAKES ME A
MUTANT AND A
HERO. MEANS I
RISK MY LIFE
TIME AND AGAIN
FOR PEOPLE WHO
PROBABLY
COULDN'T CARE
LESS.

SWIKT

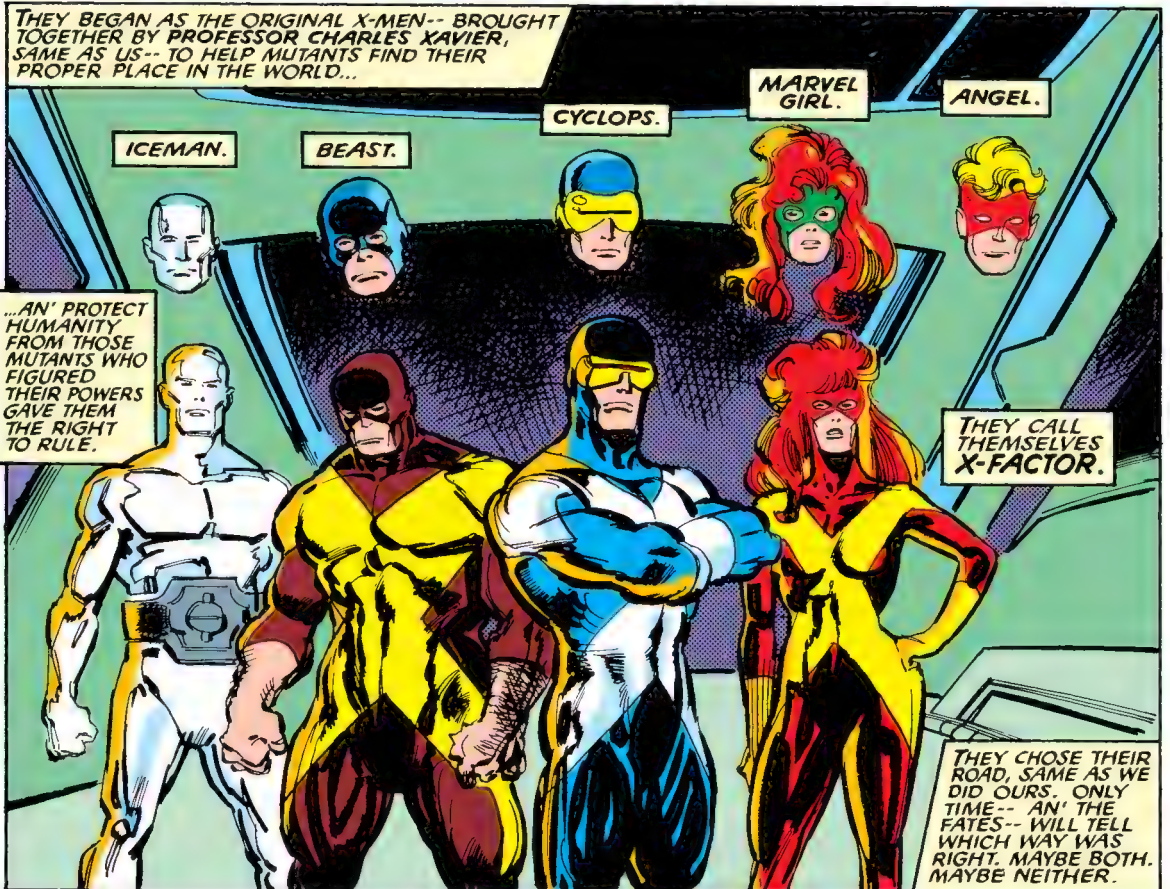


PEOPLE ABOARD THAT SHIP ARE
IN THE SAME LINE OF WORK.

WE USED TO BE
TEAM-MATES--
FRIENDS...

...AND MORE
THAN FRIENDS.

NOW I'M
NOT SO
SURE.



THEY BEGAN AS THE ORIGINAL X-MEN-- BROUGHT
TOGETHER BY PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER,
SAME AS US-- TO HELP MUTANTS FIND THEIR
PROPER PLACE IN THE WORLD...

ICEMAN.

BEAST.

CYCLOPS.

MARVEL
GIRL.

ANGEL.

...AN' PROTECT
HUMANITY
FROM THOSE
MUTANTS WHO
FIGURED
THEIR POWERS
GAVE THEM
THE RIGHT
TO RULE.

THEY CALL
THEMSELVES
X-FACTOR.

THEY CHOSE THEIR
ROAD, SAME AS WE
DID OURS. ONLY
TIME-- AN' THE
FATES-- WILL TELL
WHICH WAY WAS
RIGHT. MAYBE BOTH.
MAYBE NEITHER.

WHAT REALLY BOTHERS ME ABOUT THAT OUTFIT IS MARVEL GIRL-- JEAN GREY.

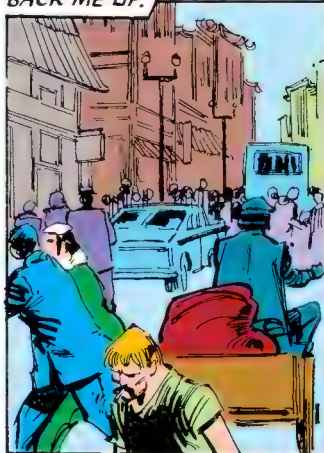
I KNOW HER SCENT AS WELL AS I DO MY OWN. I KNOW IT'S HER. TROUBLE IS, SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD.



WHAT THE HECK-- SO AM I.

IN A SENSE, I COME HERE TO BE MYSELF.

TO LIVE AS CLOSE TO THE EDGE AS IT'S POSSIBLE TO GO, WHERE A MAN'S SURVIVAL IS DETERMINED BY STRENGTH AND SKILL AND SMARTS. THERE'S NO TEAM TO BACK ME UP.



THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T HAVE FRIENDS. PLAYING SOLO DOESN'T MEAN PLAYING STUPID. THERE ARE PEOPLE I HELP, WHO IN TURN OCCASIONALLY HELP ME.

SUCH AS PRIVATE EYES JESSICA DREW AND LINDSAY McCABE, RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

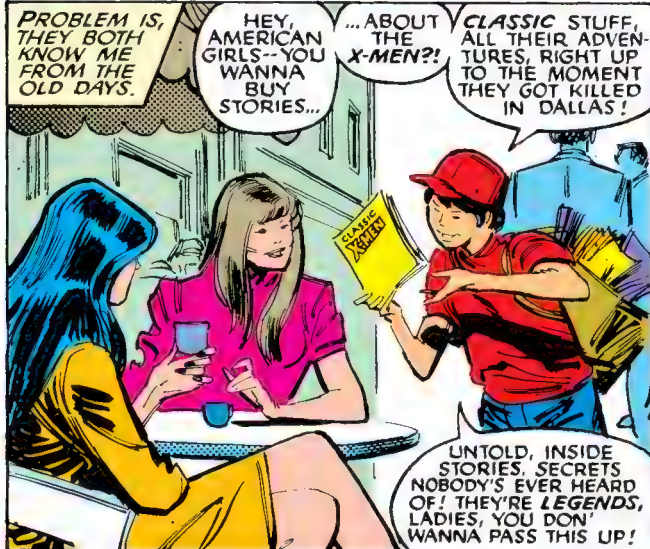


PROBLEM IS, THEY BOTH KNOW ME FROM THE OLD DAYS.

HEY, AMERICAN GIRLS--YOU WANNA BUY STORIES...

...ABOUT THE X-MEN??

CLASSIC STUFF, ALL THEIR ADVENTURES, RIGHT UP TO THE MOMENT THEY GOT KILLED IN DALLAS!



UNTOLD, INSIDE STORIES, SECRETS NOBODY'S EVER HEARD OF! THEY'RE LEGENDS, LADIES, YOU DON' WANNA PASS THIS UP!

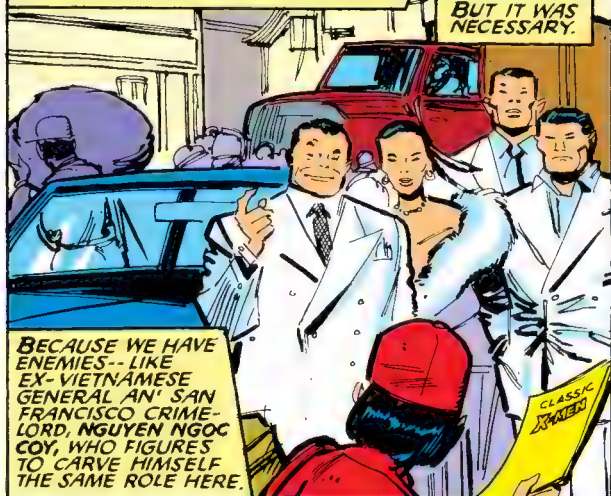
IN THIS TOWN, EVERYBODY HUSTLES. AN' NOTHIN'S SACRED.

BUT HE HAD ONE THING RIGHT-- INsofar AS THE WORLD'S CONCERNED, THE X-MEN ARE DEAD.



THE DECEPTION'S HARD ON FRIENDS AND FAMILY-- THERE'S NO WAY TO SAY 'SORRY' FOR THAT KIND OF HURT.

BUT IT WAS NECESSARY.



BECAUSE WE HAVE ENEMIES-- LIKE EX-VIETNAMESE GENERAL AN' SAN FRANCISCO CRIME-LORD, NGUYEN NGOC COY, WHO FIGURES TO CARVE HIMSELF THE SAME ROLE HERE.

WHILE WE LIVED, THOSE ENEMIES COULD STRIKE AT US THROUGH THOSE WE CARED FOR.

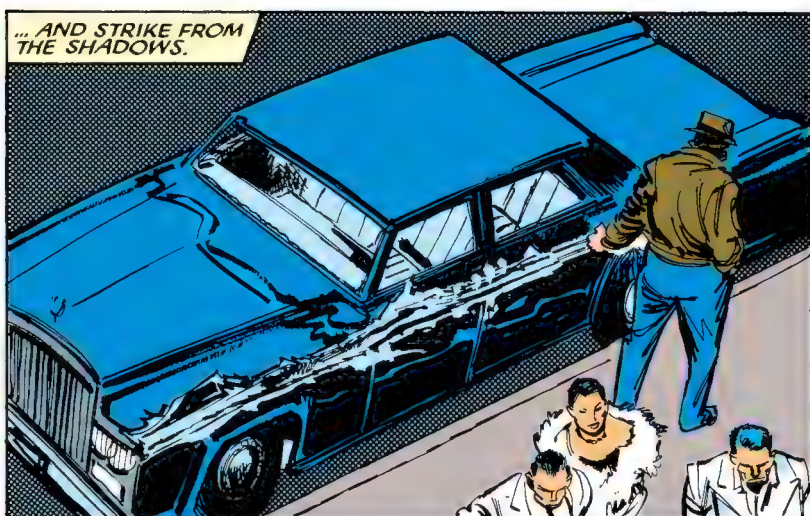
THE STAKES WERE GETTIN' TOO HIGH, THE POTENTIAL LOSS TOO GREAT--



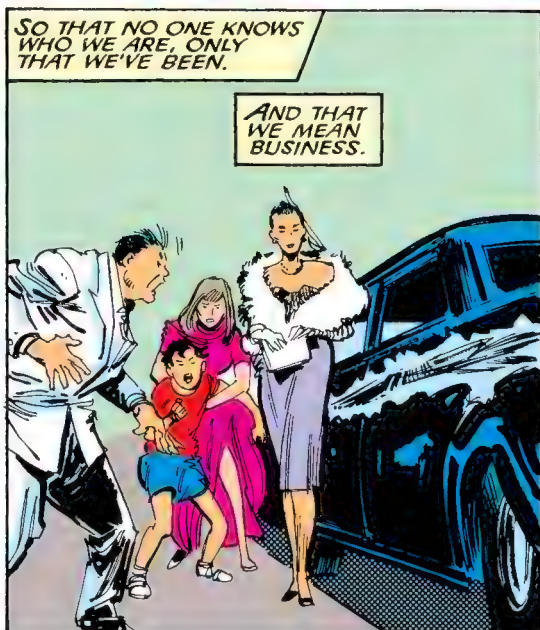
--WE COULDN'T AFFORD THAT RISK ANY LONGER.



BETTER INSTEAD
TO VANISH FROM
THE SCENE...



... AND STRIKE FROM
THE SHADOWS.



SO THAT NO ONE KNOWS
WHO WE ARE, ONLY
THAT WE'VE BEEN.

AND THAT
WE MEAN
BUSINESS.



LIKE I SAID, THIS IS A TOWN WHERE ANYTHING CAN
HAPPEN...

... YOU
NEVER
KNOW
WHO'S
GONNA
DROP IN
NEXT.

MAGIK!

Oh, GEEZ, WHERE'D SHE
TELEPORT US NOW?

CALM HER DOWN,
FOR CRYING
OUT LOUD!

WE'RE
TRYING,
MIRAGE!

WATCH
THE HAND,
SUNSPOT!



YOU CAN'T RUN ANY LONGER,
MAGIC, WE WON'T LET YOU!

YOU HEARD DESTINY'S
PREDICTION, I'M GOING TO
IGNITE THE **INFERNO**
THAT ENDS THE WORLD!

HAVING A
KING-SIZE
HISSY-FIT TANTRUM WON'T
CHANGE THAT! WE'RE THE
NEW MUTANTS!



WITH THE X-MEN
GONE, WE'VE GOT
NO ONE TO TURN
TO. WE CAN
TRUST BUT
OURSELVES.

IF THE
WORLD'S IN
DANGER, IT'S
UP TO US TO
SAVE IT.

IF THAT'S
EVEN
POSSIBLE.

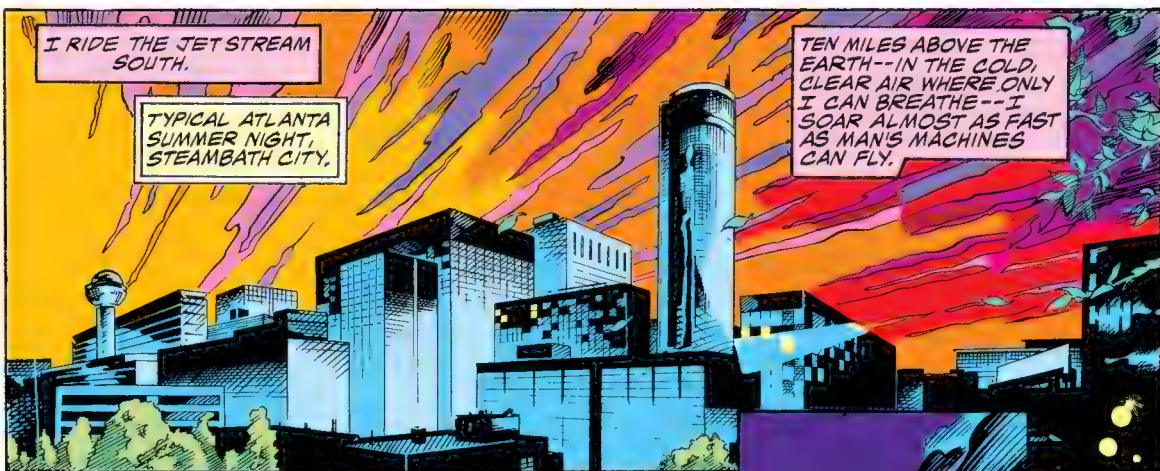
THE X-MEN
TRIED, RIGHT
TO THE END,
CAN WE DO
ANY LESS?



DON'T MISS THE FIRST ISSUE OF *WOLVERINE*--ON SALE SOON!

Marvel Fanfare #40 (October 1988) featured a backup story starring Storm and Mystique. Set just prior to *Uncanny X-Men* #185, it revealed that the loss of Storm's powers, which she coped with from issues #185-226, was not the random accident it had originally appeared to be.





I RIDE THE JET STREAM
SOUTH.

TYPICAL ATLANTA
SUMMER NIGHT,
STEAMBATH CITY.

TEN MILES ABOVE THE
EARTH--IN THE COLD,
CLEAR AIR WHERE ONLY
I CAN BREATHE--I
SOAR ALMOST AS FAST
AS MAN'S MACHINES
CAN FLY.



AND ON CUE, WITH THE
SUNSET, BOOMERS.
THUNDERSTORMS,
TRYING THEIR BEST
TO DROWN THE PLACE.

I MOVE FREELY
HERE, BENDING THE
STRATOSPHERIC
WINDS TO MY WILL,
WITH MINIMAL
EFFECT ON THE
SLEEPING WORLD
BELOW.



TONIGHT'S
DIFFERENT.

I SENSE THAT
RIGHT OFF.


A TEXTURE TO THE
BREEZE AS IT RAKES
MY SKIN...

...AN ESSENCE THAT
MARKS IT AS SOME-
THING MORE THAN
NATURAL...

...AND WAKES THE
HUNTRESS IN ME.

SHE'LL BE HERE
SOON, THE
ARROGANT WITCH.

AND THE
FUN'LL BEGIN.

A full-page comic book illustration of Storm. She is shown from the waist up, floating in the center of a large, swirling storm cloud. She has her arms outstretched, and her hands are surrounded by bright, glowing energy. She is wearing her classic black and yellow costume. The background is a dark, starry sky with a crescent moon visible in the lower left. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, purples, and yellows.

I AM
STORM.

IN ME, NAME
AND POWER
ARE ONE--

--FOR MINE IS THE
ABILITY TO CONTROL
THE WEATHER.


IN MY TIME, I
HAVE BEEN CALLED
A GODDESS.

I AM A
MUTANT.

STAN LEE PRESENTS

DEAL WITH THE DEVIL!

CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
CRAIG HAMILTON, PENCILER
JIM NOVAK, LETTERER
ALLEN MILGROM, EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF
RICK BRYANT, INKER
PETRA SCOTESI, COLORIST



THAT MAKES
ME MORE
THAN HUMAN.

WHETHER "MORE"
MEANS BETTER
REMAINS TO BE
SEEN.


-- MORE
OFTEN
OUTLAW
THAN
NOT...

...ALTHOUGH
WE ARE, IN
TRUTH,
WHAT SOME
REFER TO
AS "SUPER
HEROES."



I LEAD
THE
X-MEN...

... A BAND OF
ADVENTURERS--



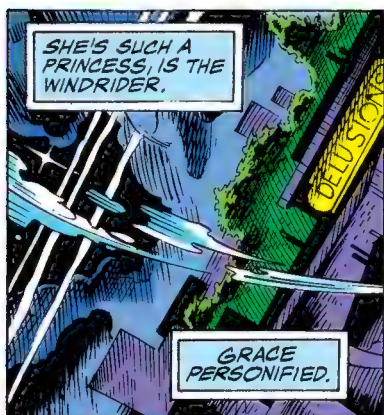
OUR CHARTER IS
TO PROTECT THIS
WORLD AND ITS
PEOPLE FROM ANY
WHO WOULD DO
THEM HARM--

--AND, AS IMPORTANTLY,
SEEK OUT OTHERS
LIKE OURSELVES,
HELP THEM LEARN TO
USE THEIR EXTRA-
ORDINARY POWERS...

... AND THEN CHOOSE
A LIFEPAATH THAT WILL
ENDANGER NEITHER
THEMSELVES NOR
SOCIETY AROUND
THEM; AND IF POSSI-
BLE, BENEFIT BOTH.

A NOBLE
DREAM.

WOULD IT WERE AS EASILY
DONE AS SAID.



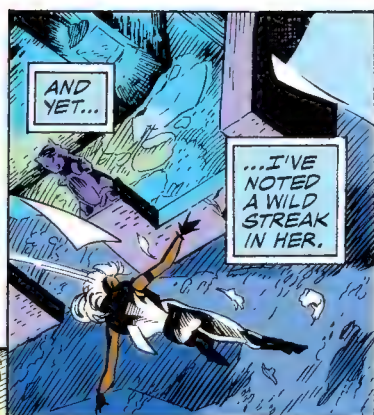
SHE'S SUCH A PRINCESS, IS THE WINDRIDER.

GRACE PERSONIFIED.



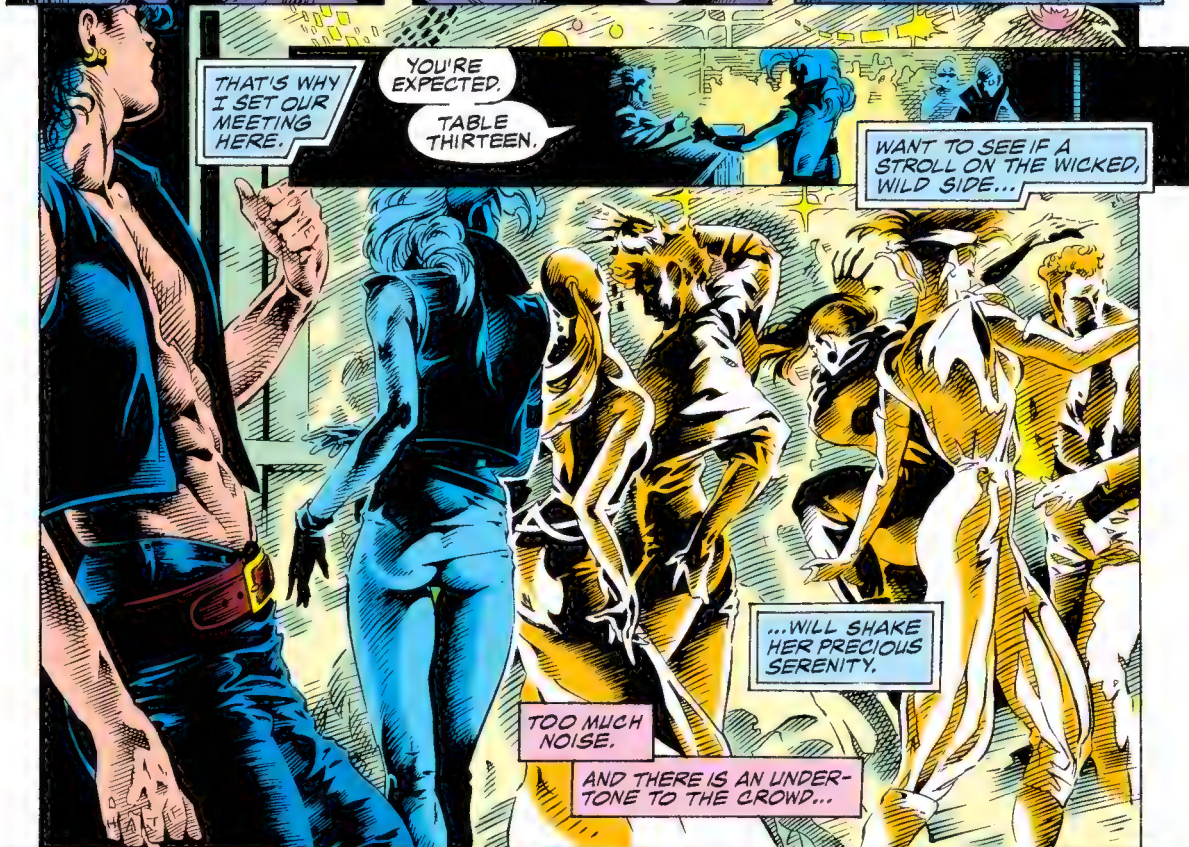
MAKES THE BEST OF THE REST OF US LOOK LIKE CLUB-FOOTED CLODS.

LITTLE MISS PERFECT.



AND YET...

...I'VE NOTED A WILD STREAK IN HER.



THAT'S WHY I SET OUR MEETING HERE.

YOU'RE EXPECTED.

TABLE THIRTEEN.

WANT TO SEE IF A STROLL ON THE WICKED, WILD SIDE...

...WILL SHAKE HER PRECIOUS SERENITY.

TOO MUCH NOISE.

AND THERE IS AN UNDERTONE TO THE CROWD...



...THAT MAKES ME THINK OF WALKING AMIDST A PRIDE OF HUNGRY LIONS.

DEEP INSIDE, I REACT IN KIND.

I WANT TO BARE FANGS AND CLAWS-- TO SHOW I, TOO, AM TO BE FEARED.

LOOKIN' TO PARTY, SWEETS?



FOR A PARTY, YES.

BUT NOT YOU.

YOUR LOSS.

CHANGE YOUR MIND...

...I'LL BE WAITIN'!

IN SUPERFICIAL FORM--LOOK AND COSTUME--

--WE APPEAR MUCH ALIKE.



IN SUBSTANCE, NOT AT ALL.

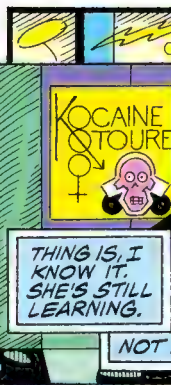
WHICH IS
MORE DIS-
TURBING--

--OUR
SIMILARITIES...

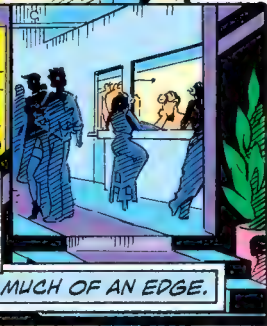
...OR
DIFFERENCES?



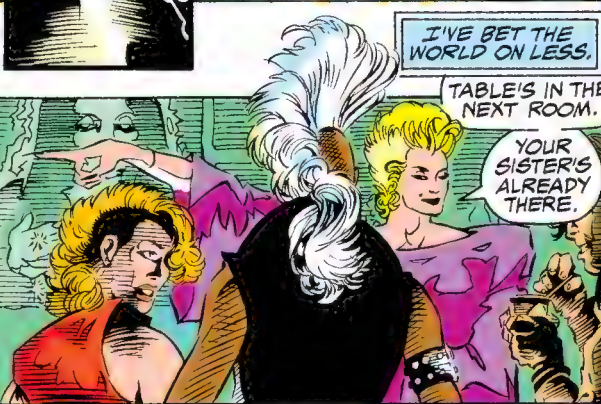
WE'RE BOTH
HUNTERS.



THING IS, I
KNOW IT.
SHE'S STILL
LEARNING.



NOT MUCH OF AN EDGE.



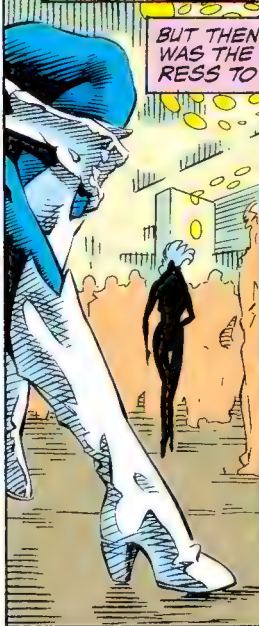
I'VE BET THE
WORLD ON LESS.

TABLE'S IN THE
NEXT ROOM.

YOUR
SISTER'S
ALREADY
THERE.



I HAVE NO
SISTER.

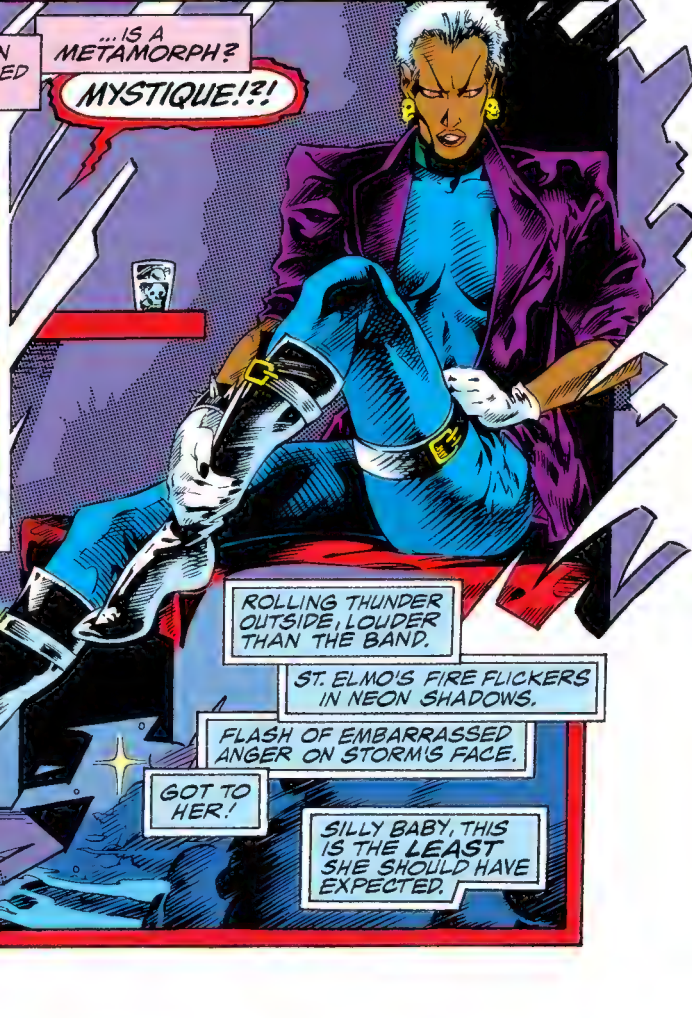


BUT THEN, HOW
WAS THE WAIT-
RESS TO KNOW...

...THE WOMAN
SHE REFERRED
TO...

...IS A
METAMORPH?

MYSTIQUE!?!



ROLLING THUNDER
OUTSIDE, LOUDER
THAN THE BAND.

ST. ELMO'S FIRE FLICKERS
IN NEON SHADOWS.

FLASH OF EMBARRASSED
ANGER ON STORM'S FACE.

GOT TO
HER!

SILLY BABY, THIS
IS THE LEAST
SHE SHOULD HAVE
EXPECTED.

HAVE A SEAT?

ORORO-- SURELY YOU DIDN'T EXPECT ME TO APPEAR IN PUBLIC WEARING MY OWN FACE?

THE LEADER OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS IS AN INTERNATIONALLY NOTORIOUS TERRORIST. I THOUGHT THIS CAMOUFLAGE WOULD AVOID ANY... UNPLEASANTNESS.

YOU'VE NOTHING TO FEAR. A TRUCE EXISTS BETWEEN US, REMEMBER? YOUR SAFETY IS GUARANTEED.

ASSUMING, OF COURSE...

...THAT "WORD" MEANS ANYTHING.

ON THAT, I PLEDGED MY WORD OF HONOR.

VERY GOOD.

I BELIEVE THERE'S HOPE FOR YOU YET.

BUT IF IT CAUSES YOU SUCH DISTRESS...

...FOR ME TO WEAR YOUR FACE...

...THAT'S EASILY REMEDIED.

KITTY PRYDE?!!

STOP IT, MYSTIQUE! PLAY WITH ME, IF YOU MUST...

DEAR ME.

PERHAPS, THEN, YOU SHOULD HAVE LEFT WELL ENOUGH ALONE?

SHE MASKS HER FURY WELL.

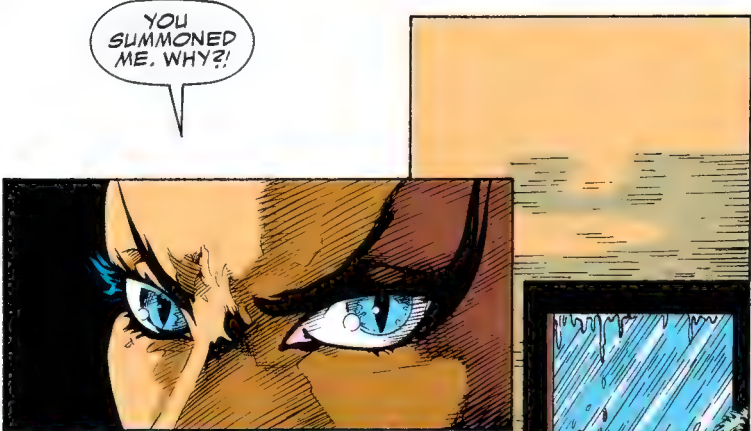
AND I WONDER, HOW FAR CAN I--DARE I--

...BUT LEAVE THE CHILD OUT OF THIS!

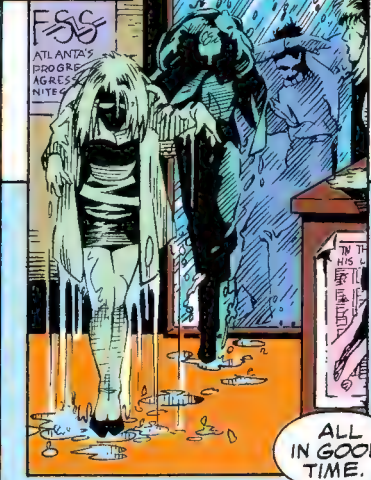
I SEEM TO HAVE STRUCK A NERVE.



GET TO THE POINT, WOMAN!

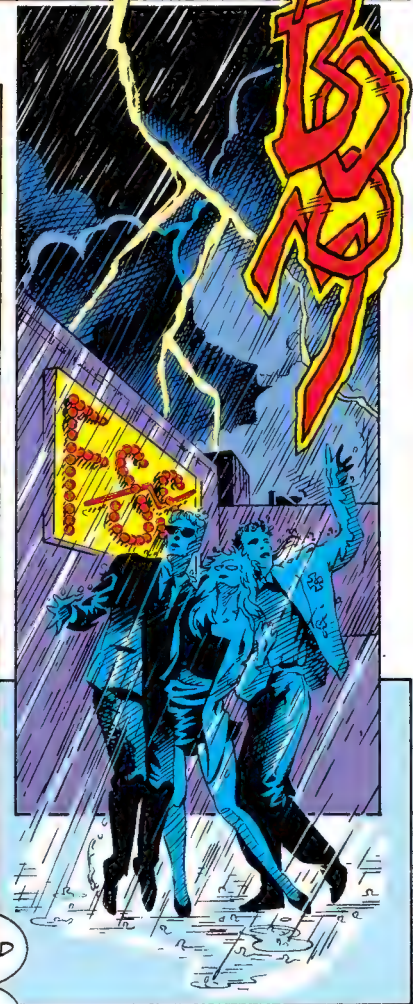


YOU SUMMONED ME. WHY?!



ALL IN GOOD TIME.

FIRST, DARLING, CONTROL YOURSELF.



YOU'RE FRIGHTENING THE HUMANS.

AND, I MUST ADMIT...

...NOT ONLY THEM.

SILENCE BETWEEN US FOR A TIME...

...AS I PULL DEEP WITHIN MYSELF...

...TO CALM MY RAGE AND THE TEMPEST IT SPAWNED.

BUT IT TAKES AN EFFORT...

...I FIND MYSELF LESS AND LESS WILLING TO EXERT.

IN HER EYES, WE BOTH BEHOLD THE ABYSS.

SHE'S A VITAL, PASSIONATE WOMAN; HOW LONG CAN SHE DENY HER NATURAL--HUMAN--EMOTIONS?

AND WHAT'LL HAPPEN WHEN THAT VOLCANO EVENTUALLY ERUPTS?

WHERE IS ROGUE?

SHE'S MY DAUGHTER, STORM--

--AS MUCH MINE AS IF SHE WAS MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD--NOT SOME PRETEND-PROTEGE LIKE YOUR PRYDE BRAT!

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CONTACT HER FOR DAYS AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL...

SHE HAS RUN AWAY.

CURSE YOU ALL!

SHE HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE--AND INCREASING--STRAIN LATELY.

PROFESSOR XAVIER BELIEVES IT IS A REMANIFESTATION OF THE PSYCHIC INSTABILITY THAT PROMPTED HER TO SEEK HIS AID.

I KNEW SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED.

FAT LOT OF GOOD HE'S DONE HER.

COULD YOU DO BETTER?

DID YOU?

FRESHEN YOUR DRINK?

AND HOW 'BOUT YOU--

--NAME YOUR POISON?

SHE'LL HAVE HEMLOCK.



DUNNO THAT BRAND.

DIDN'T THINK SO. NEVER MIND.

LOVE YOUR HAIR...

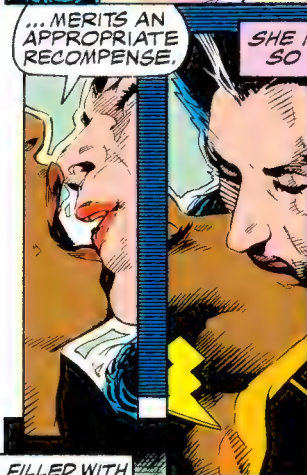
...AN' BEWITCHIN' OUTFITS.



BEHOLD, DARLING-- EVOLUTION IN ACTION...

...BUT IN WHICH DIRECTION?

SUPERIOR SERVICE...



...MERITS AN APPROPRIATE RECOMPENSE.

SHE IS SO FREE-- SO CASUAL--

--WITH HER FAVORS.

GIVING AND TAKING PLEASURE WHEN AND AS SHE PLEASURES.

WHERE I...

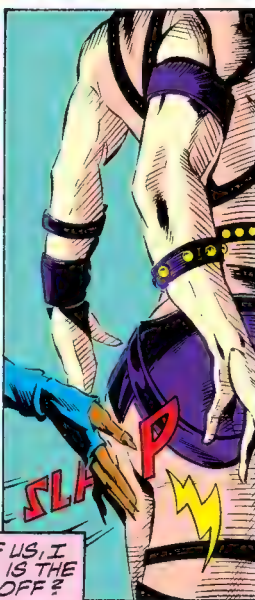
...DARE NOT.

SHE KNOWS THIS.

WHICH IS WHY SHE DOES IT.

MY FACE IS STONE.

HERS, QUICKSILVER.



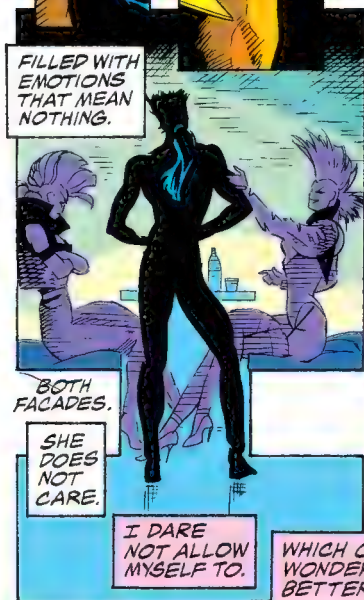
SLAP



DELIGHTFUL BOY.

SUCH A PITY, MY DEAR...

...YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING.



FILLED WITH EMOTIONS THAT MEAN NOTHING.

BOTH FACADES.

SHE DOES NOT CARE.

I DARE NOT ALLOW MYSELF TO.

WHICH OF US, I WONDER, IS THE BETTER OFF?



IS THERE A REASON FOR
OUR MEETING--OTHER
THAN THIS GAME OF
ONE-UPMANSHIP?

ACTUALLY--YES.

ROGUE.

A FLASH IN HER
EYES-- HERE, AT
LAST, SOMETHING
THAT DOES MATTER.

SHE STANDS FALSELY
ACCUSED OF
MURDERING AN AGENT
OF SHIELD-- THE
INTERNATIONAL
INTELLIGENCE
ORGANIZATION.

I AM WORKING
TO CLEAR HER...

... BUT, IN THE MEANTIME,
A FEDERAL STRIKE FORCE
IS ON HER TRAIL.

IN THEIR POSSESSION
IS A WEAPON PUTA-
TIVELY CAPABLE OF
STRIPPING ANY SUPER-
BEING OF HIS POWERS
--PERHAPS PERMANENTLY.



HOW DO
YOU KNOW
ALL THIS?

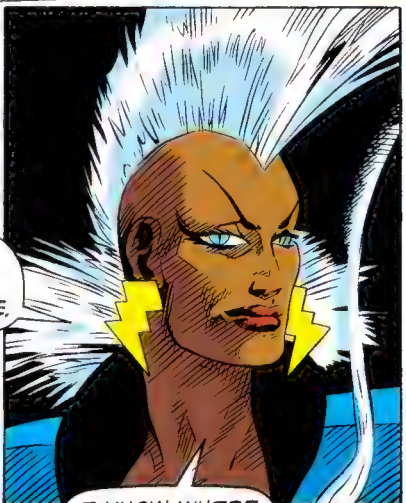
I HAVE MY
SOURCES.

WHAT ARE
THEY?

YOU
SHOULD KNOW
BETTER THAN
TO ASK.


HOWEVER, I
ASSURE YOU
THEY'RE
UNIMPEACHABLE.

YOU
KNOW WHERE
SHE IS?



I KNOW WHERE
TO LOOK.

A LIST
OF THE CHILD'S
HAUNTS.



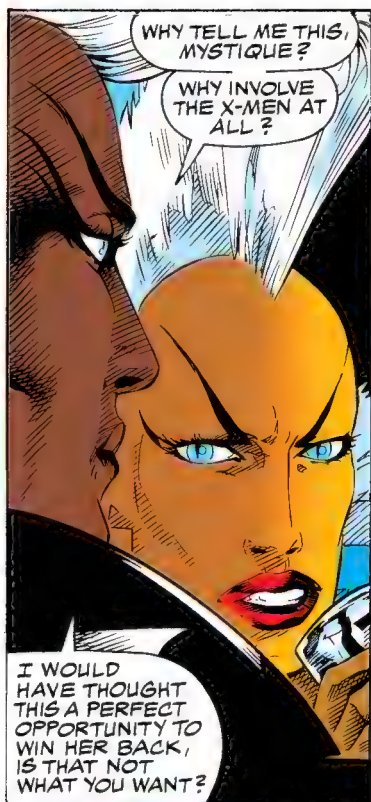
THE MOST LIKELY
POSSIBILITY IS CALDECOTT
COUNTY, ON THE MISSISSIPPI.
IT'S WHERE SHE
WAS BORN.

OH-- DIDN'T
YOU KNOW?



AH WELL,
EVERYONE
HAS HIS/HER
LITTLE
SECRETS.

OR PERHAPS
--ROGUE DOESN'T
TRUST YOU AS
MUCH AS YOU
BELIEVE.



WHY TELL ME THIS, MYSTIQUE?

WHY INVOLVE THE X-MEN AT ALL?

I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THIS A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO WIN HER BACK, IS THAT NOT WHAT YOU WANT?



MORE THAN ANYTHING.

BUT ASSUME YOU'RE CORRECT--AND I SUCCEED--NOTHING WILL HAVE CHANGED. HER POWER WILL STILL BE OUT OF CONTROL. I'LL STILL BE UNABLE TO CURE HER.



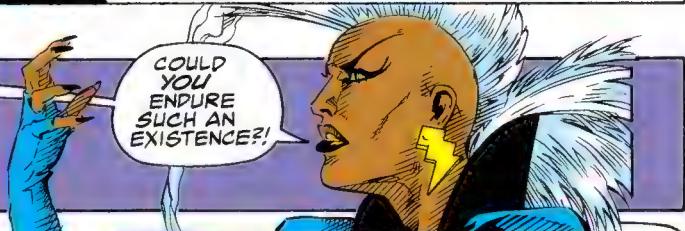
I THOUGHT OF ALLOWING THE FEDS TO CATCH HER, AND USE THEIR NEUTRALIZER ON HER.

SHE'D BE NORMAL THEN, WITH NOTHING TO FEAR, ABLE AT LAST TO TOUCH AND BE TOUCHED, TO LIVE AN ORDINARY LIFE.

CAN YOU IMAGINE, STORM, BEING TERRIFIED TO TOUCH YOUR OWN CHILD, BECAUSE-- IN A VERY REAL SENSE-- THAT TOUCH MEANS YOUR OWN DESTRUCTION, AS SHE ABSORBS YOUR PSYCHE?!



OR BEING AFRAID TO TOUCH ANYONE, FOR THAT SAME REASON?



COULD YOU ENDURE SUCH AN EXISTENCE?!



IN A SENSE, I DO.

I DO NOT...

NO.



I WAS TEMPTED, STILL AM.

BUT THE DEVICE IS UNTESTED. NO ONE HAS THE SLIGHTEST NOTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THERE ARE ANY SIDE EFFECTS, OR HOW SERIOUS THEY MIGHT BE. THE RISK IS TOO GREAT.

MOREOVER...

...I CAN'T DO IT...

...NOT TO ROGUE.



I HAVEN'T THE RIGHT TO MAKE THAT DECISION. IT HAS TO BE HERS ALONE.

SO, STORM, I LEAVE HER TO YOU.

I TRUST YOU'RE PLEASED. THE X-MEN WIN AGAIN.

AND THE PRICE?

IF LOOKS COULD KILL...

HIGHER THAN YOU DARE SUSPECT, WITCH!



CONSIDER THIS A
GIFT.

FROM A
MOTHER...

...FOR HER
CHILD.

SHE
DOESN'T
FOLLOW.

WOULDN'T
MATTER IF
SHE HAD.

DANCE FLOOR'S
JAMMED, UNDER
CHRISTMAS
COLORED STROBES.



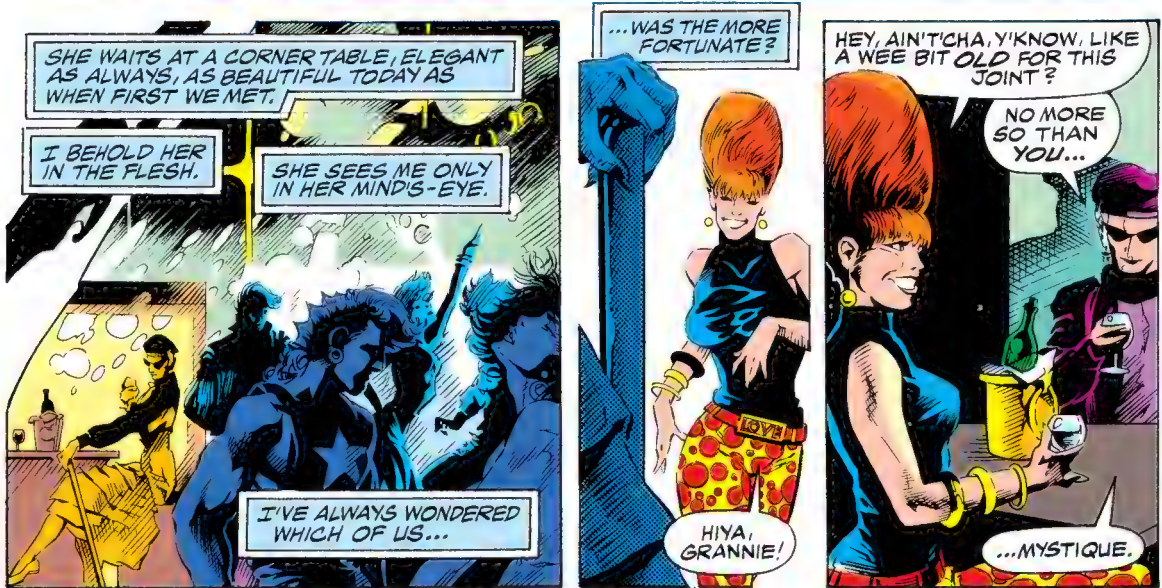
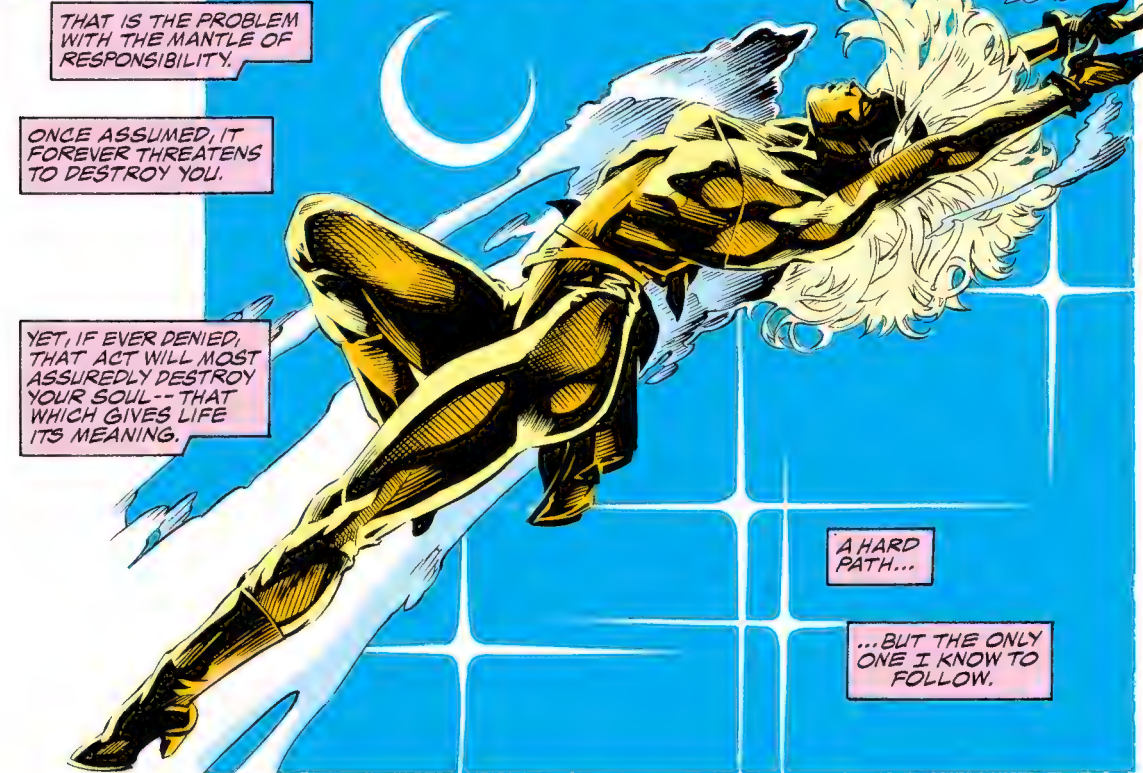
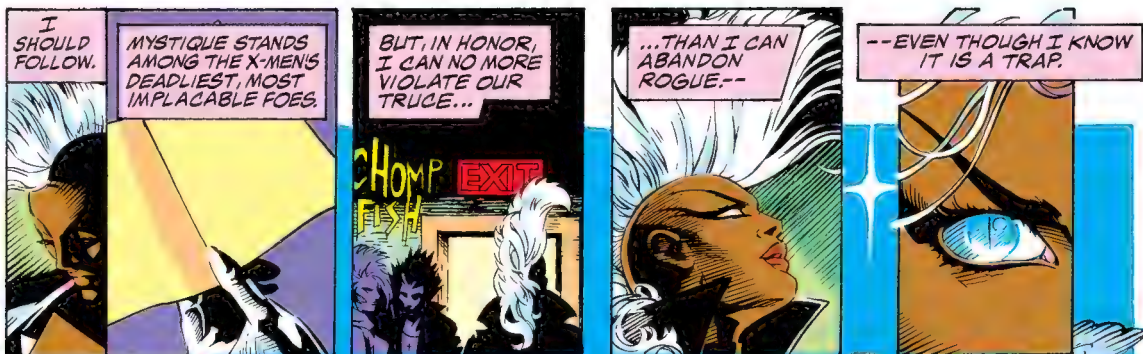
WITH EACH
STEP, EACH
FLASH OF
DARKNESS...

...I SWITCH
SHAPE, COLOR,
GENDER, STYLE.

I'M
QUICKSILVER.

TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
FROM ONE
HEARTBEAT
TO THE NEXT.

IMPOSSIBLE
TO HOLD.





CURSES, FOILED AGAIN.

I AM A PRECOG, RAVEN.

I "SEE" THE FUTURE.

I KNEW WHEN YOU WOULD REJOIN ME...

...AND IN WHAT--INCREDIBLY OUTLANDISH-- FORM...



...BEFORE WE ENTERED THIS ESTABLISHMENT.

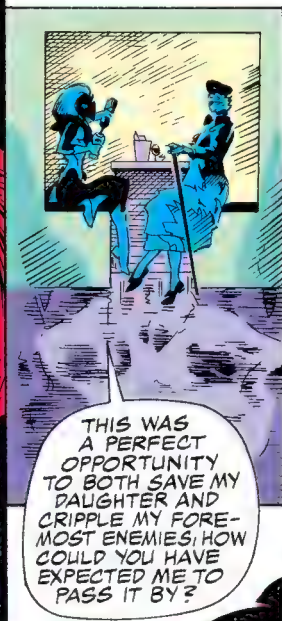
RAVEN, DID YOU WARN STORM OF MY PRESCIENT VISION...

...THAT WHOEVER GOES TO ROGUE'S AID WILL SUFFER THE FATE MEANT FOR HER?!



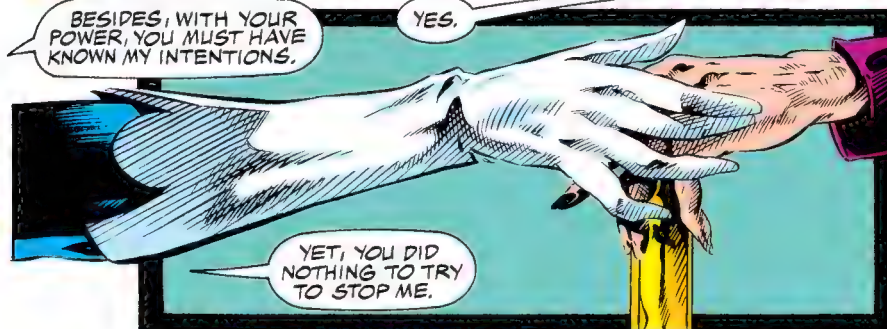
DON'T BE ABSURD, IRENIE--

--OF COURSE NOT!



RAVEN--!

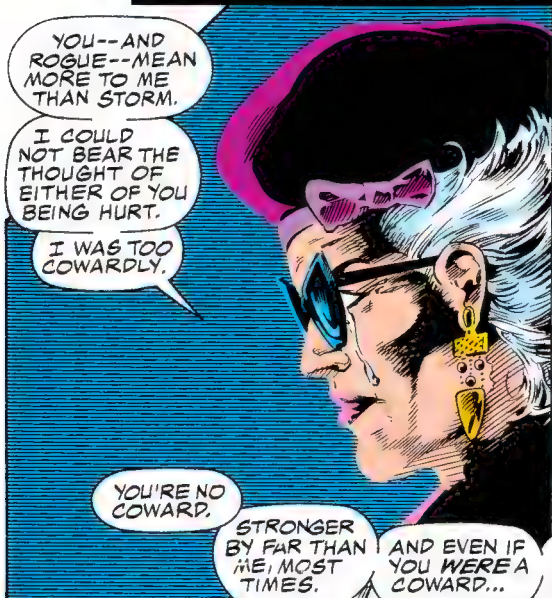
THIS WAS A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO BOTH SAVE MY DAUGHTER AND CRIPPLE MY FOREMOST ENEMIES. HOW COULD YOU HAVE EXPECTED ME TO PASS IT BY?



BESIDES, WITH YOUR POWER, YOU MUST HAVE KNOWN MY INTENTIONS.

YES.

YET, YOU DID NOTHING TO TRY TO STOP ME.



YOU--AND ROGUE--MEAN MORE TO ME THAN STORM.

I COULD NOT BEAR THE THOUGHT OF EITHER OF YOU BEING HURT.

I WAS TOO COWARDLY.

YOU'RE NO COWARD.

STRONGER BY FAR THAN ME, MOST TIMES.

AND EVEN IF YOU WERE A COWARD...

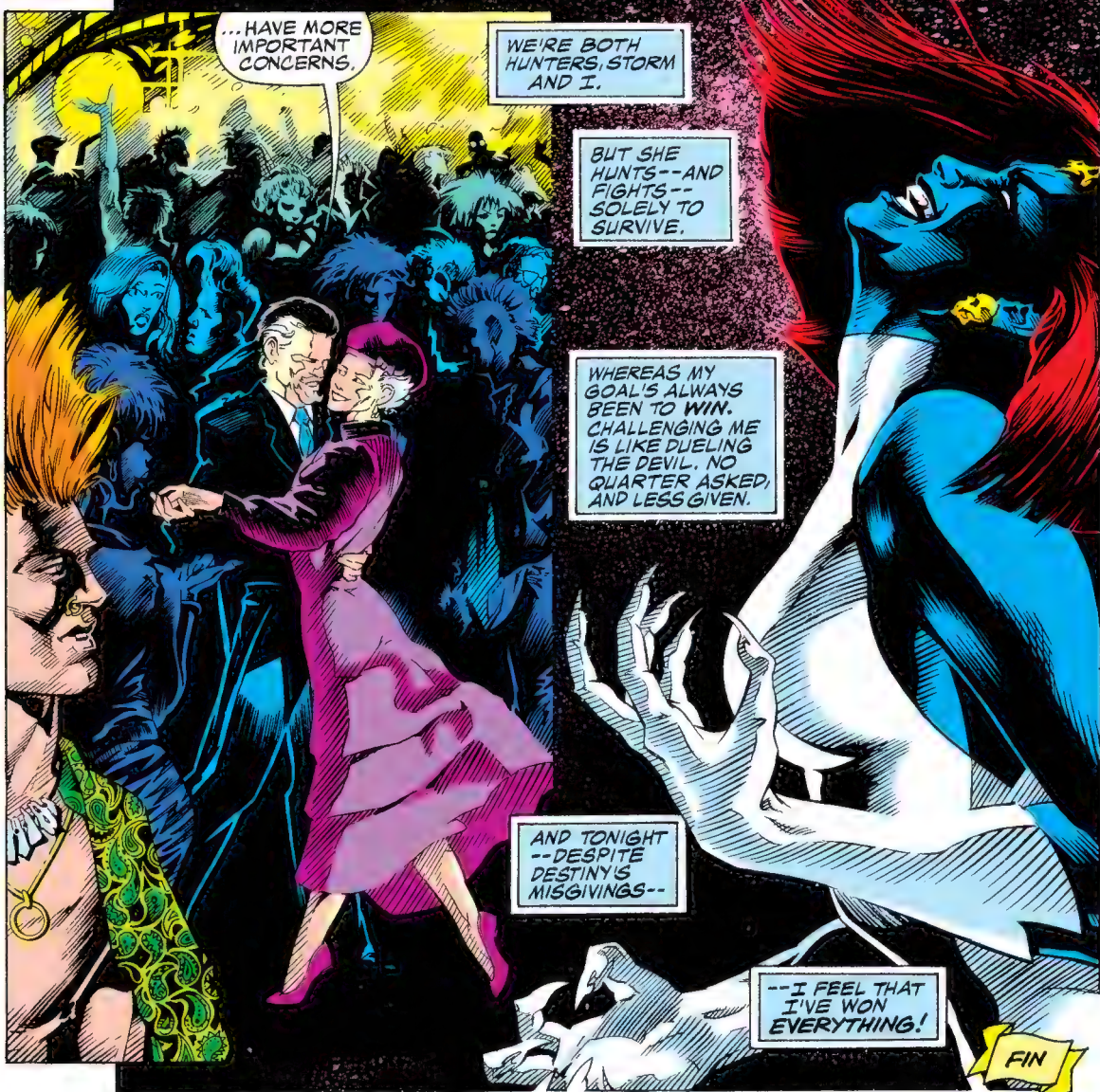
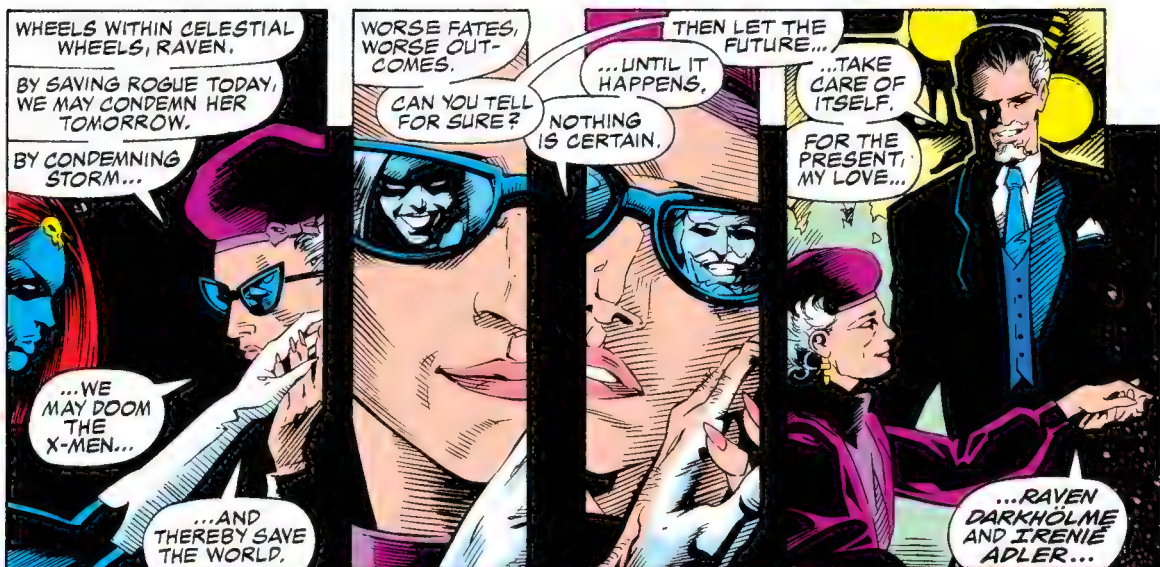


STILL, EVEN AS I WIPE AWAY HER--RARE--TEARS...

...I SENSE DEEPER MEANINGS TO HER WORDS...

...A SECRET DESPERATELY HIDDEN...

...AND WONDER IF I SHOULD--DARE--PRY?



WHEELS WITHIN CELESTIAL
WHEELS, RAVEN.

BY SAYING ROGUE TODAY,
WE MAY CONDEMN HER
TOMORROW.

BY CONDEMNING
STORM...

...WE
MAY DOOM
THE
X-MEN...

...AND
THEREBY SAVE
THE WORLD.

WORSE FATES,
WORSE OUT-
COMES.

CAN YOU TELL
FOR SURE?

...UNTIL IT
HAPPENS.

NOTHING
IS CERTAIN.

THEN LET THE
FUTURE...

...TAKE
CARE OF
ITSELF.

FOR THE
PRESENT,
MY LOVE...

...HAVING MORE
IMPORTANT
CONCERNS.

WE'RE BOTH
HUNTERS, STORM
AND I.

BUT SHE
HUNTS--AND
FIGHTS--
SOLELY TO
SURVIVE.

WHEREAS MY
GOAL'S ALWAYS
BEEN TO WIN.
CHALLENGING ME
IS LIKE DUELING
THE DEVIL. NO
QUARTER ASKED,
AND LESS GIVEN.

AND TONIGHT
--DESPITE
DESTINY'S
MISGIVINGS--

--I FEEL THAT
I'VE WON
EVERYTHING!

FIN

X-TRA

THE *MUTANT* REPORT

X-TRA

VOLUME 3

"THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION"

NUMBER 3

THE X-MEN ARE DEAD,

LONG
LIVE
THEX-MEN[®]

The X-Men, dead to the world at large, have relocated to a savage new land — the Australian Outback. But mutants — *cyborg* mutants, at that — have first claim to the territory and they're not giving it up without a fight! And, even if the X-Men can defeat the Reavers, what can they do with them then without re-revealing their own existence to the world? That's where Roma, the Guardian of the Multiverse, comes in with her *Siege Perilous* ... and things will never be the same again for the X-Men!

X-MEN #229, "Down Under," marks a new beginning for our outcast mutants with the debut of not only Storm's new look and costume, but also ... a mysterious new X-Man. Gateway is an ancient Australian Aborigine and what the X-Men don't know about him, *will* hurt them! Chris Claremont, Marc Silvestri, and Dan Green are also taking this opportunity to show us the tragic origin of a villainess who will soon be playing a major role in the upcoming weekly Wolverine solo series for MARVEL COMICS. (More on that next issue ...)



THE BROOD IS BACK!

The New Mutants still aren't over the death of one of their own during "The Fall of the Mutants" and it's affecting them in a big way! In NEW MUTANTS #63, Magik has a nightmare of an adventure that brings her face to face with ... the Brood! But not before she and Lockheed face the assembled might of the uncanny X-Men — particularly uncanny in the wake of their recent deaths! Warlock and Shadowcat play their parts, as well — but not in any way you'd expect! And wait until you see guest-artists, Bo Hampton and Joe Rubinstein's stunningly different rendition of Limbo. Look for the beautifully

painted cover of "Magik in Space" by Carl Potts. As the cover proves, this one is definitely different ...

And let's not forget X-MEN INDEX #6 or its exciting, detailed descriptions of THE UNCANNY X-MEN #109 to #130 and CLASSIC X-MEN #15 to #19. This takes the new X-Men through their second confrontation with Magneto, the origin of Xavier, and the introduction of Alpha Flight — right up to their battle with Mutant X! 48 pages of Marvel's newest Prestige Format and it only costs \$2.95 — you can't go wrong getting so much for so little!

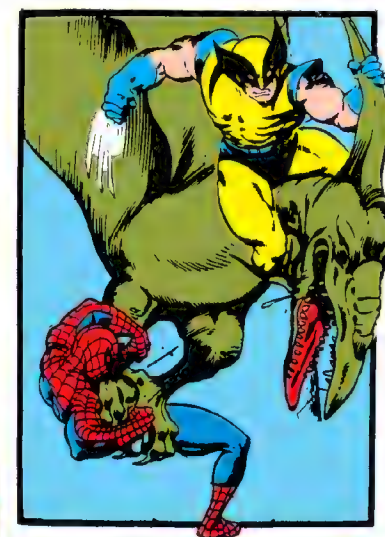


X-FACTOR'S TROJAN HORSE

Back in "civilized" New York, all of X-Factor — young and old — face yet another of Apocalypse's tests. Only this time, it's their very home that attacks them, leaving them nowhere to run in X-FACTOR #28!

How do they fight the ship that wrecked Manhattan? Louise and Walt Simonson aren't telling, but things have been going a little too well for Xavier's original pupils lately ...

SAVAGE LAND REVIVAL



Speaking of a "savage new land," don't miss the X-Men's most dangerous visit ever to the old Savage Land, reprinted in glorious color in an 80-page Trade Paperback. These classics from the very first issues of MARVEL FANFARE were also Chris Claremont's and Paul Smith's first team-up on the X-Men with Terry Austin — a working relationship that became famous in THE X-MEN! And you'll find out why in THE SAVAGE LAND for only \$5.95. Mike Golden's original covers for the series are worth the price alone. Spider-Man, even Ka-Zar and Zabu, aren't enough help when our intrepid mutants have to face the combined might of Sauron and the Savage Land's Evil Mutates!

And, of course, there's this month's CLASSIC X-MEN #21, "Visions of Death," reprinting X-MEN #115. Claremont, Byrne, and Austin's very first X-Men adventure in the Savage Land, and their first confrontation with the prehistoric Sauron. Meanwhile, in Kieron Dwyer and Terry Austin's new pages, Jean Grey learns more about Professor X — and herself — than she ever wanted! And John Bolton's new Colossus tale explains once and for all why Peter Rasputin carries such fond memories of the Savage Land. As usual, you can always find CLASSIC X-MEN by the distinctive Art Adams covers.

And, as a matter of interest, this year's X-MEN ANNUAL will feature the return of none other than ... the Savage Land! (More on that as it comes in ...)

X-TRA

THE *MUTANT* REPORT

X-TRA

VOLUME 3

"THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION"

NUMBER 10

MARC
SILVESTRI
INTERVIEW

This year the X-MEN marks its twenty-fifth anniversary. Over the past quarter century an extraordinary series of artists have worked on this series: Jack Kirby, Jim Steranko, Neal Adams, Dave Cockrum, John Byrne, Paul Smith, and John Romita Jr., to name only some. The latest in the distinguished ranks of X-MEN artists is penciler Marc Silvestri. Peter Sanderson conducted this interview with Marc to learn his thoughts about working on THE X-MEN and his career in general.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: How did you get started in the comics business?

MARC: Gee, that was a long time ago. By accident, really, to be honest. My cousin was an avid comics collector. I believe he still is. This was eight years ago or so. I was working at a health club in Chicago, managing the place. My only exposure to comics at that time was casual reading at my cousin's house. I was mostly looking at books in which I thought the art looked real nice, because since I wasn't a regular reader, it was hard for me to follow a lot of the continuing stories.

One day I was doodling on a note pad at this health club. At that point I was kind of sick of working there. I drew something — I don't remember what it was — I thought it looked pretty good, and I thought, gee, maybe I should do this for a living. I think mainly at that time because it looked like it might be an easy thing to do. [Laughs] Gee, this isn't work, it's drawing pictures all day long! Little did I know.

My cousin had told me that DC Comics was launching a big talent hunt. This was six or seven months later. At that time I quit my job and I started working on a portfolio. That was really the first time I seriously started drawing. (I had taken art in high school.) I showed my portfolio to the Powers That Be at the Chicago Comicon of that year, and they liked what they saw, and I've been working in comics ever since. A year later I talked to Jim Shooter and showed him what I had, again at the Chicago convention, and I've been with Marvel ever since.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: What was your first assignment at Marvel?

MARC: The first story I ever did was originally for SAVAGESWORD OF CONAN, but after I did it, they decided to put it in the regular CONAN book. That was CONAN THE BARBARIAN #135.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: You went on to spend a good deal of time on KING CONAN, later known as CONAN THE KING.

MARC: I was with that for a

number of years. That was my longest stint before doing THE X-MEN.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Did you enjoy doing sword and sorcery material?

MARC: Yeah, at first I really did. What I wanted to get into when I first got interested in comics was the sword and sorcery stuff. When I was a kid, my brother, who is eleven years older than I am, used to buy Edgar Rice Burroughs books that Frank Frazetta was doing covers for. Even when I was a kid, that artwork fascinated me, and that got me interested in sword and sorcery. So I was real happy to do CONAN for awhile. But, like anything, you get tired of it. I had been doing it for a couple of years, and it was time to move on.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: So what did you do then?

MARC: After I left CONAN THE KING I did a graphic novel called REVENGE OF THE LIVING MONOLITH. Your basic big guy munching on big buildings, like several Japanese horror movies you've seen in the past. David Michelinie wrote it. I worked with [editor] Jim Owsley on the MONOLITH book, and following that he got me the WEB OF SPIDER-MAN stint that I did for six issues, again with David as writer.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: What kind of changes did you find yourself making in moving from drawing barbarian stories to super hero stories?

MARC: It's strange going from the barbarian era into a contemporary background, New York City. I wasn't used to drawing that sort of thing. I was eager. I was kind of tired of loincloths and broadswords. It's easy to draw, but it's very limited creatively. I was eager to get into mainstream super hero stories, and when SPIDER-MAN was offered to me, I said, sure, I'll take it. And I had fun with it. I had a good time working with David. I thought we did some interesting stories.

Then one thing led to another and eventually we weren't on the book any more. After that, I really didn't know what I was going to do

in comics. Ann Nocenti offered me a mini-series, X-MEN VS. THE AVENGERS, and I snapped that up right away, number one, because THE X-MEN is a book that I had always wanted to work on since I got involved in comics, but I never thought I'd ever get a chance to do it. And the Avengers are always a lot of fun to draw.

Of course, if it weren't for that series, I never would have been offered the job of doing THE X-MEN. So I'm thankful for that.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: How do you enjoy doing THE X-MEN?

MARC: It's great. I'm having a great time with it. It's a real treat to be working with the top people in the field, like Chris Claremont. I can't stress enough how happy I am to be working with Dan Green as an inker. To a penciler, a good inker is more valuable than gold. Dan, I think, is one of the best in the business. So that's another reason working on THE X-MEN has been a real plus for me: having an inker who can really make my pencils look good. He's saved my butt more than once on pages that I didn't think looked very good, but after Dan has gotten ahold of them, they just really look good.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Do you have favorite issues or characters so far?

MARC: I like the three issues we did in the "Fall of the Mutants" series. I also think the issues I'm working on now, in which the Brood make a comeback, came out really well. Chris wrote some really good stories for them, and visually I think they came out the best of all the ones we've done together so far.

On a book like THE X-MEN, where you're dealing with a team of eight members, that can sometimes be grueling, but also, as opposed to doing a single hero book like SPIDER-MAN, if you get tired of doing a certain hero, you know you have seven others to choose from to direct your attention to.

I would have to say my current favorites are Wolverine and Rogue. They're the ones I'm most comfortable with.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Why Wolverine?

MARC: Wolverine, I think, appeals to me because of his savage power. Visually, he makes a great comics character. His natural tools, his claws. His stature, which is stocky and short, which is unusual for a super hero. And his feistiness and his unusual code of honor. They all add up to make him a really unusual character. He's fun to draw.

Storm is another character that





I enjoy drawing. She is a little bit hard to get a handle on, because she is the leader of the group, and she has to be handled in a specific fashion that presented quite a challenge. She has a certain attitude that's tough to capture without dropping into clichés and certain poses. She's a character who's a little more complex than a Captain America, who you have to draw in these star-spangled poses. She's not that cut and dried. She's got a little more complex and deeper personality. So it's kind of tough transferring her to a comic book. But that's probably one of the reasons I enjoy drawing her, because it's a bit of a challenge. But you have to be in the mood for that sort of thing. You have to have an unusual energy level the day you have to draw Storm in a principal role in a specific issue.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: How does drawing Rogue differ?

MARC: Rogue is a little more play-

ful. She's not quite as serious as Storm is. She's younger, she's got a lot of energy about her, yet everyone knows she can handle herself well in a fight. There's underlying tragedy to her character, her power being such that she can't have any real physical contact with anyone. It makes her kind of a loner, and she's appealing that way, because although she has this cheerful facade and this playful attitude, deep inside you know there's a lot of pain in there. That's something Chris and I are going to be working on in future issues. We're going to be bringing it out more, and defining the fact that she has all these multiple personalities in her head, which are in constant conflict with her, trying to take control. In fact, we do an issue in which Carol Danvers' personality does take control of Rogue. There's a lot to play with in there. She's got a strong yet playful persona that I find appealing.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: What about Psylocke?

MARC: I'm not really sure about Psylocke, and what to do with her. She hasn't been around that long. Chris seems to have a real good view on her. I'm still working on her a bit. I think with a few good issues focusing on her, she'll become a more well-rounded character in my mind.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Colossus?

MARC: Colossus is always a lot of fun. Any time you have to draw a big bruiser like that, you know you're going to have a good time. There's a lot of broad action with him because of his strength and size. You can have people flying all over the place, crashing through walls and windows, and that's always a lot of fun. When I have to do a scene with Colossus, I'm in a good mood that day. His armored body is also visually striking. It works well in a color comic to have this

chrome-plated giant running around with these giant fists and pounding the bad guys. It's a lot of fun.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Dazzler?

MARC: I'm not really sure about Dazzler. She's got a lot of potential, which Chris and I are going to try to realize in the next couple of issues. I like her power, especially the way Chris has defined it, where her power is actually life-sustaining for her. She has to absorb sound in order to live the way we have to eat. Visually she has a good power with the laser effects and all that. So I'm looking forward to using her in the upcoming issues and defining her personality a little bit more.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE:

Havok?

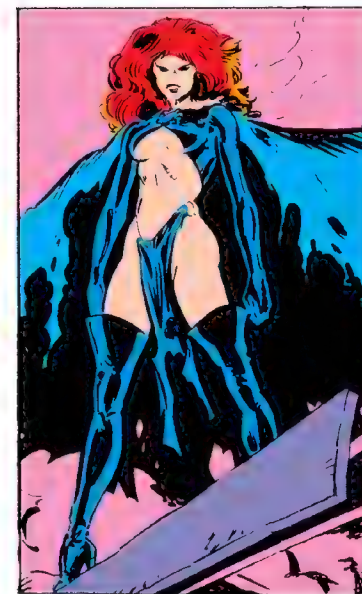
MARC: Havok has a long history in THE X-MEN, and yet I don't think anyone has really known what to do with the guy. Chris is working on that now. Havok's kind of bland, very even-tempered. He's kind of the preppie of the super hero set. We're going to be adding some strength to his character and some conflict to make him a bit more interesting, a romantic involvement. Again, that's a good visual power he has.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE:

Longshot?

MARC: He's a lot of fun. He's the joker of the group. I liked the character before I started doing THE X-MEN. He's a way for me to draw Spider-Man without drawing Spider-Man. He doesn't have the same powers, obviously, but he's nimble like Spider-Man, and he can bounce around, and he has that light sense of humor that Spider-Man is famous for.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: What do you think of THE X-MEN's current Australian setting? Are you using a lot of reference on



Australia?

MARC: Yeah, I've got a lot of reference, a lot of big expensive coffee table books. I'd love to visit there. The place fascinates me. I'd like to explore the territory [in future stories]. It runs the gamut, from civilization to the wildest open plains and jungles.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: What can you tell us about the upcoming "Inferno" crossover story in X-MEN and the other mutant books?

MARC: I like crossovers. It's something special to work on. I can't give too much away. There's a lot of surprises. I think a lot of people will be happy to see the return of Mr. Sinister. Ever since he first appeared briefly in two pages in one of the earlier issues I did, whenever I meet fans at conventions, they always ask about Mr. Sinister. He is playing a major role, along with S'ym. There are big surprises with Madeline Pryor. That's probably

the biggest thing. A lot of people have been wondering what are we going to be doing with Madeline Pryor, what is she doing there. A lot of those questions are going to be answered in this story.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: How did you design Mr. Sinister?

MARC: Somebody once said about songwriting that if a song takes more than fifteen minutes to write, forget it and start something else. They had asked me for some sketches of Mr. Sinister, and I was tooling around the house. For a couple of days I had been working on these designs and nothing was happening. Federal Express was going to be knocking at my door in a half hour and I had to mail these out that night. Then all of a sudden, because I knew I had to mail it out in a half hour, these ideas started coming to me, and he just sort of came together. The design was received well by the people over at the office. I like the character. I think he's going to be a lot of fun to play with in the future.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: And what would you like to do in comics in the future?

MARC: If time permits, or if I get faster, I'd like to pick up another book, maybe do some writing. Right now I'm happy with THE X-MEN. I'm happy working with Chris. We've got a pretty good working relationship. Chris is always open to suggestions, which I think is great. As I become more comfortable with the characters and know them better, I'm sure there'll be times I can work closely with Chris on plotting. I like working with Bob Harras, who's editing the book. I loved working with Ann. I enjoy the characters and the response from the fans. Like I said before, THE X-MEN is the book that I always wanted to do. So I can see myself doing it for quite a while.

—Peter Sanderson



**FROM MUD TO MAN TO MADNESS ...
THIS TIME IT'S GONE TOO FAR.**



THE EVOLUTIONARY WAR

A CROSS-ANNUAL EVENT BEGINNING IN APRIL FROM MARVEL®

Evolutionary War house ad



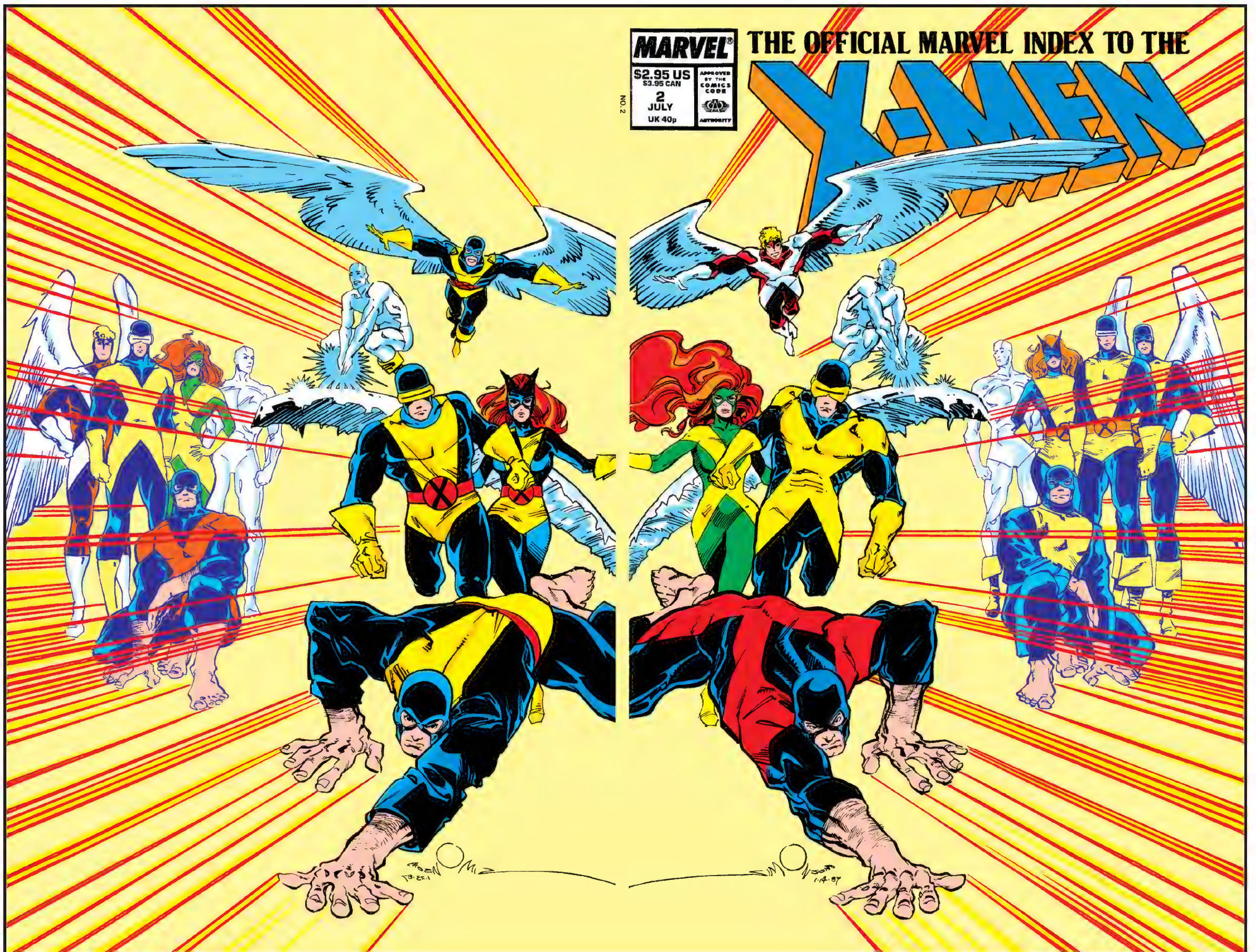
Official Marvel Index to the X-Men (1987) #2 frontispiece art by Walter Simonson

MARVEL
\$2.95 US
\$3.95 CAN
2
JULY
UK 40p

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX TO THE

X-MEN





The X-Men: Earthfall one-shot reprinted *Uncanny X-Men* #232-234. Cover art by Ian Churchill & Al Vey.

PAR X-GIRLS Costume Designs

ILLUSTRATED BY ART ADAMS

SHOWCASED HERE IS A SERIES OF PROPOSED COSTUME DESIGNS FOR MOST OF THE FEMALE X-MEN MEMBERS OF THE ERA — DAZZLER, ROGUE, PSYLOCKE AND STORM — ALL BY ART ADAMS.

THERE WAS A STRONG DESIRE TO UPDATE THE TEAM'S APPEARANCE AT THE TIME, AND THESE ARE A FEW OF ART'S ORIGINAL TAKES ON WHAT THOSE "NEW LOOKS" MIGHT BE.

WE THINK THESE DESIGNS ARE STILL PRETTY COOL TO LOOK AT... BUT IF YOU FIND YOUR EYES STRAYING TO DAZZLER'S BUILT-IN ROLLER SKATES AND WALKMAN, REMEMBER — THESE COSTUMES WERE MEANT TO LOOK CONTEMPORARY IN THE '80s! OH, FASHION!

PSYLOCKE





Marvel subscription ad art by Mike Mignola & Al Williamson

THE EVOLUTIONARY WAR™

A CROSS-ANNUAL EVENT
BEGINNING IN APRIL FROM MARVEL®

FOLLOW THE EVENT OF THE SUMMER ACROSS THESE EXCITING ANNUALS!
Don't miss the incredible debut of SPEEDBALL™, BANTAM™, AND THE YOUNG GODS™!

<p>Shipping in April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> X-FACTOR™ ANNUAL #3 (4/12) <input type="checkbox"/> PUNISHER™ ANNUAL #1 (4/19) <input type="checkbox"/> SILVER SURFER™ ANNUAL #1 (4/26) <p>Shipping in May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> NEW MUTANTS™ ANNUAL #4 (5/3) <input type="checkbox"/> AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™ ANNUAL #22 (5/10) <input type="checkbox"/> FANTASTIC FOUR™ ANNUAL #21 (5/24) 	<p>Shipping in June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> X-MEN™ ANNUAL #12 (6/14) <input type="checkbox"/> WEB OF SPIDER-MAN™ ANNUAL #4 (6/21) <input type="checkbox"/> WEST COAST AVENGERS™ ANNUAL #3 (6/28) <p>Shipping in July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™ ANNUAL #8 (7/5) <input type="checkbox"/> AVENGERS™ ANNUAL #17 (7/12)
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YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET THEM ALL, BUT IF YOU MISS OUT ON ONE, YOU'RE MISSING OUT ON A PIECE OF THE ACTION IN THE MOST REVOLUTIONARY STORY OF THE YEAR!!

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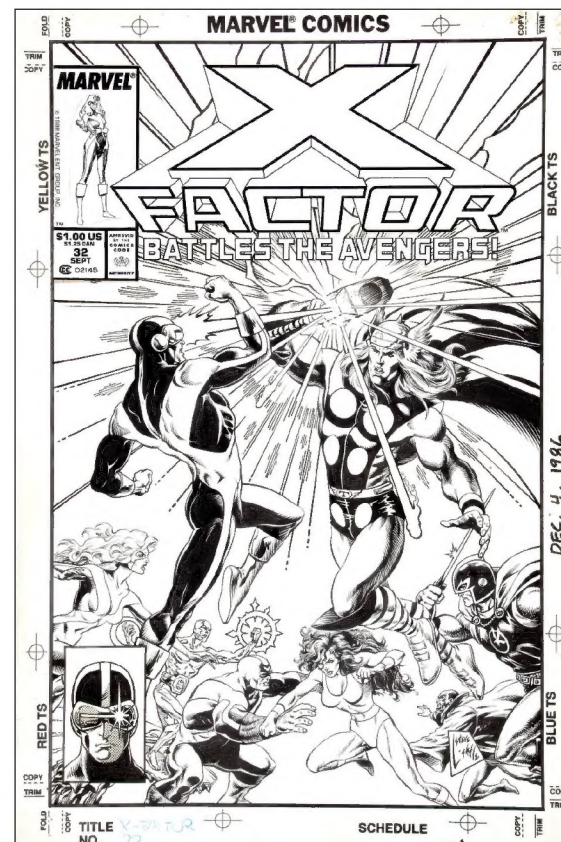
Evolutionary War checklist-card art by Walter Simonson



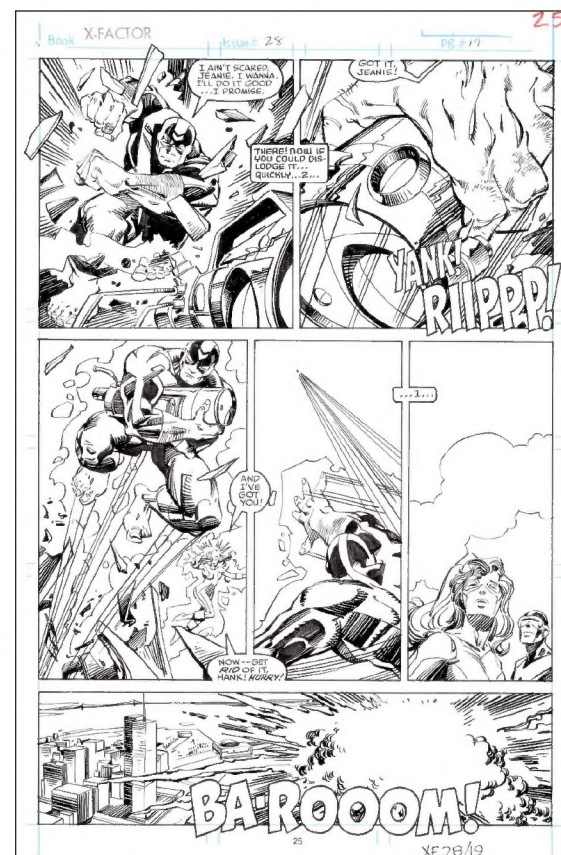
Unused New Mutants cover art by Bret Blevins



New Mutants #69 cover art by Bret Blevins



X-Factor #32 cover art by Steve Lightle



X-Factor #28, page 19 art by Walter Simonson & Bob Wiacek



X-Factor Annual #3 pinup art by John Byrne



Uncanny X-Men #234, page 22
art by Marc Silvestri & Josef Rubinstein



Uncanny X-Men #234, page 22
art by Marc Silvestri & Josef Rubinstein



X-Men Annual #12 cover art by Arthur Adams

Images courtesy of HeritageAuctions.com



STRIKE THE MATCH... FAN THE FLAME...

The X-Men are dead! At least that's what the world thinks — but Marvel's mightiest mutants are secretly alive and well in the Australian Outback! How long will the X-Men's self-imposed exile last when the Brood and the mutant-exploiting nation of Genosha come calling? Meanwhile, the New Mutants battle Freedom Force as they deal with Doug Ramsey's shocking death, and X-Factor befriends Apocalypse's Celestial ship and faces Infectia! But as all three teams fight the Evolutionary War, Limbo's demons begin to pursue a sinister agenda — on Earth! A spark has been lit — and if the X-Men aren't careful, the flames will fan into an all-out Inferno!

Collecting X-Factor (1986) #27-32 and Annual #3, Uncanny X-Men (1981) #228-238, New Mutants (1983) #62-70 and Annual #4, X-Men Annual (1970) #12, and material from Marvel Age Annual #4 and Marvel Fanfare (1982) #40.



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